



The Boilerman

Purdue University NROTC



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Background: MIDN Bertolas, Fall 2009 Battalion Commander, during Change of Command

The Captain's Corner

All,

As my first year at Purdue University comes to an end, I am very pleased with the quality of midshipmen, OCs, and MECEPs who will become our future leaders. They are successful academically as demonstrated by a battalion average GPA of over 3.00 with more than 80% in technical majors at this challenging institution. Physically, they are refining, and in some cases developing, training habits that will condition their bodies to endure this “marathon” that we call a career. Morally, character development is a component of everything that we do, and you will not find more forthright, courageous and service-before-self group of young people. In short, they will be Marine and Naval Officers who honor and contribute to our rich heritage.

These young people should be commended for their willingness to serve our great nation.

Thank you for supporting the Purdue NROTC unit. Please come and visit us!

Enjoy the 2009-2010 Boilerman!

E.W. Jones
Commanding Officer



Captain E. W. Jones
Commanding Officer

Battalion Commanding Officer Fall 2009

The fall 2009 semester has been another outstanding one for the Purdue NROTC Battalion. One of the highlights was the successful Freshman Orientation. Upper-class Midshipmen returned to school early from their summer break to help acclimatize new freshman to the rigors of both ROTC and college life. Other enjoyable and fulfilling times came during the ceremonial Birthday Ball, celebrating the U.S. Navy's 234th year as well as a visit by RADM Pottenger.

The start of the fall semester has also brought three new faces to our unit. First and foremost, I would like to extend a most sincere welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Captain Jones. He has already taken great pride in leading the unit and is fitting right in with our Boilermaker family. Gunnery Sergeant Gonya is the new Assistant Marine Officer Instructor and has already had a strong hand in training the 4/C Midshipmen in all aspects of the military. I'm certain he will lead the Battalion to many accomplishments. Mr. Tanner, who is also new to the unit as the Human Resources Administrator, has and will continue helping Midshipmen navigate the small print of military life.

In closing, I would like to thank each individual within the Battalion for his or her strong work this past fall. All the credit for our success belongs to each of you, from 1/C all the way to 4/C Midshipmen. It is comforting to know that these bright men and women will be the Officers leading our Sailors and Marines in the years to come. I wish each of you much success in your time left at Purdue and I hope one day to see you in the fleet. And to the newest Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants in the Navy and Marine Corps, congratulations and good luck.

Go Navy! Semper Fi! And Boiler Up!

Ryan R. Bertolas
Battalion Commanding Officer



**MIDN 1/C Bertolas
Battalion Commander Fall '09**

Battalion Commanding Officer Spring 2010

We have yet again had a successful semester at Purdue. The members of this NROTC unit have learned many things to prepare them for the variety of summer cruises that lie ahead, such as professionalism and general military knowledge. Midshipmen have taken part in training that gave them the tools they need to be successful and will enable them to take the most away from this summer's Navy and Marine Corps experiences.

Midshipmen have taken part in the Memphis drill meet and did very well representing Purdue among the many teams competing. Unfortunately the unit did not get the chance to participate in the very competitive Bulldog Challenge that takes place in Charleston, South Carolina each spring. Despite missing out on that exciting event, our excellent Battalion looks forward to bringing its very best to the upcoming competitions in the fall semester, including the anticipated trip to Wisconsin for its challenging endurance race and drill competition.

As summer break approaches, I would like to thank all the exceptional members of this Navy and Marine Corps Battalion for a great semester at Purdue. I am honored to have had the chance to lead all these great, young men and women, who have taught me much about myself and the challenges of being a leader. As a final note, I would like to congratulate all my fellow seniors graduating this spring for their hard work and dedication to this Battalion over these past four years. I wish all of you great success in your upcoming careers and look forward to serving along side each and every one of you in the fleet. Semper Fi Boilermakers!

Wayne A. King
Battalion Commanding Officer



MIDN 1/C King
Battalion Commander Spring '10

Commissioned Seniors Fall 09



2nd Lt. Berger



ENS Bertolas



ENS Bowlin



ENS Butler

Commissioned Seniors Fall 09



ENS Hodina



ENS Hunter



ENS Ortman



2nd Lt. Sampsel

Commissioned Seniors Fall 09



ENS Schmidt



ENS Smith



ENS Valenta



ENS Wallace

Commissioned Seniors Spring 10



ENS Bone



ENS Chapman



ENS Cohn



ENS Cox

Commissioned Seniors Spring 10



ENS Estvander



ENS Fechner



ENS Gochnauer



ENS Hall

Commissioned Seniors Spring 10



ENS Hanley



ENS Hartmann



ENS Jackson



2nd Lt. King

Commissioned Seniors Spring 10



ENS Lape



ENS Mix



ENS Minne



2nd Lt. Nelson

Commissioned Seniors Spring 10



2nd Lt. Scheckel



ENS Schillo



ENS Stallsworth



ENS Steinberger

Commissioned Seniors Spring 10



ENS Stinehart



2nd Lt. Walsh

Change of Command



Freshman Orientation



Letters Home

MIDN 4/C Wagonr

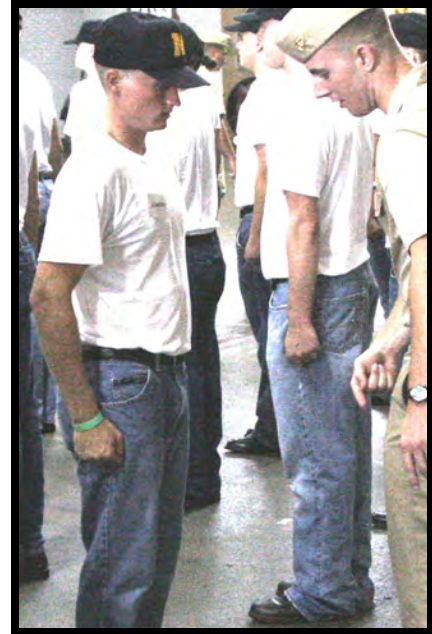
Dear Mom,

The time since I first arrived at Freshman Orientation flew by so quickly. It seems like just yesterday I showed up to check in station in my white tee-shirt, jeans, and black shoes, only to have my hair shaved off and be thrown into a crazy world. It was a world of little sleep, yelling people, rigorous physical fitness sessions early in the morning, and an overload of information to be digested and later tested over. Looking back on the experience, however, I would totally go back and do it again. It taught me most of the necessary things that I need to be successful inside the unit and was an integral part of helping me achieve Midshipman of the Month.

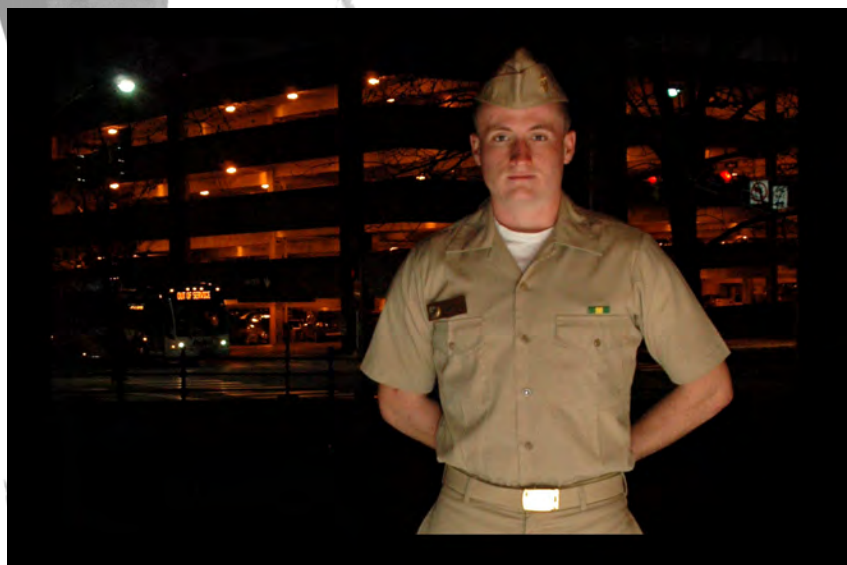
Some people have trouble in their first semester in college. I won't lie, it has been difficult. Going through Purdue's first year engineering program, as well as being an NROTC has been challenging for me in more ways than one. Constantly you have to be conscious of the amount of time that you have, and you need to be successful. Staying up late to finish assignments, on more than one occasion, and then having to get up early the next morning for Physical training, is quite wearing on a body. Time spent with friends and family become more and more valuable.

You asked me why I stay in the program if it's so difficult. That answer to that question is that it pays to work hard, it pays to be the best, and the accumulation of my hard work now will help me be what I want to be in the future.

Competition to be a pilot in the Navy is stiff and if I'm not the best, then I'm not going to get far. Also, after graduating from Purdue, when the person who is deciding my future is looking at my resume, he can be reassured that he has found someone that went through a tough program. This is why Purdue has a record of producing great potential officers for the Navy. It is a tough program, but the payoff will be so worth it.



**MIDN 4/C Wagonr
receives instruction
during Freshman
Orientation. August
2009**



Letters Home

MIDN 4/C Rader

Dear Mom,

In response to your question, here is a quick sum-up of my Purdue NROTC adventure... thus far.

August 19, 2009 my Purdue NROTC adventure began with a little activity they like to call Freshman Orientation (or Freshman-O). We began with a crash-course orientation/check-in process followed by a quick swearing into the Naval Reserve and then... the yelling began.

It really didn't seem to matter what you were doing, attempting to do, or even thinking about doing, it all warranted a good yelling. Very soon the cadre threw a few good doses of Physical Training into the madness. Ultimately I found the PT quite fun; and really the yelling wasn't bad either but then they made it even better by adding close order drill, hours of 'death-by-power point' briefs, standing attention while maintaining bearing, and learning (or memorizing, whichever you could do faster) all kinds of wonderful basic Navy knowledge to the mix.

So at this point in time, most of us were quite tired, constantly drenched in sweat from running everywhere, and trying to remember General Orders. All of this while desperately attempting to avoid misaddressing the staff and Cadre. In the end, however, I really enjoyed Freshman Orientation and wouldn't have minded it lasting a bit longer.

Since the end of Freshman-O and the beginning of the semester, we have been subject to early morning PT and drill sessions four out of the five days of the week. We then stagger back to our dorms before most of the other Purdue student population has even considered getting out of bed. Most mornings I feel that I would much rather sleep in instead of PT. It is quite rewarding to walk back to my dorm afterwards and see all the students with 7:30am classes struggling down the sidewalk.

I really have enjoyed my time in the Purdue NROTC program thus far. I am very excited for my remaining time in the program!



MIDN 4/C Rader stretching before PT during Freshman Orientation. August 2009



High Academic Achievers

The Following MIDN earned GPAs of 3.5 or above for Fall Semester

1/C

OC Robert Jackson
MIDN David Steinberger
SSgt. Christopher Scheckel
MIDN Peter Cohn
MIDN Sarah Stallsworth
MIDN Ryan Kazcorowski
OC Bryan Chapman
OC Joshua Bone
MIDN Issac Zimmerman
MIDN John Lape
MIDN Emilie Torielli
MIDN Albert Estvander
MIDN Mallory Thaxton
MIDN Lizette Mix
MIDN Martin Hanley
MIDN Travis Lee
MIDN Thomas Hall
MIDN Richard Valenta
MIDN Douglas Schmidt
MIDN Austin Butler
MIDN Ryan Bertolas
MIDN Gregory Bowlin

2/C

MIDN John Kuiper
MIDN Michael Massel
MIDN Andrew Marvel
MIDN Raymond Volle

SSgt. Chad Green

SSgt. Scott Easley
MIDN Heather Steele
MIDN Daniel Maytasse
MIDN Chris Komlos
MIDN Paul Marder
MIDN Christian Blachford

3/C

SSgt. Chad Wilson
MIDN Mike Bellavia
Sgt. Welch
MIDN Dustin Flaum
MIDN Christopher Gerber
MIDN Evan Bower
MIDN Jason Robinson
MIDN Reid Scott
MIDN Anthony DeMartino

4/C

OC Drew Tribble
MIDN Ian Follansebee
MIDN Abraham Trindle
MIDN Chase Bureman
MIDN Michael Crisman
MIDN Austin Wildberger
MIDN Ekkaphol Boribourne
OC Alex Anderson
MIDN Joseph Cress

Officer Candidate School

“Take charge of your platoons and carry out the plan of the day.” Every summer at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA, a select few Purdue Marine Option Midshipmen hear those dreaded words. It means the beginning of a grueling, 6-week training session with a trip out the back hatch into the sunshine of America’s eastern coastline.

The mission of the course is to “train, evaluate, and screen Officer Candidates to ensure that they possess the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for commissioning and the leadership potential to serve successfully as company grade officers in the Operating Forces.” A typical training day begins at 0500 and ends at 2100 and may include anything from Night Individual Movement Course, Land Navigation, Small Unit Leadership Evaluation, forced marches, and academic exams, to the ever-present drill practice.

Officer Candidates are expected to arrive with a basic military knowledge, physical fitness, leadership potential, and drive. In addition to passing basic exams and physically evaluated events, the leadership abilities of the Candidate are judged based on performance and peer evaluation.

When the 6 weeks are over, every Officer Candidate of the increment waits patiently behind the parade deck for the command to march forward, across the drill deck, and out of Officer Candidate School with their Eagle, Globe, and Anchor and the chosen title,

“United States Marine.”



Officer Candidates listen to a briefing

CORTRAMID East

By MIDN McQuillin

Over CORTRAMID East 2009, I spent time on the East Coast, touring different facilities operated by aviation, submarine, surface, and Marine units. I enjoyed my time spent there, and was able to participate in many fulfilling experiences, such as spending 24 hours on a submarine, flying in a T-34 trainer aircraft, and shooting a few of the weapons utilized by Marines in combat. I was also able to gain insight to the future of my naval career by spending time with different naval units along the eastern seaboard and by talking with personnel of those units. CORTRAMID is a unique experience that allowed me to have fun while still learning more about the US Navy.



CORTRAMID West

By MIDN Rueter

From the 9th of July to the 8th of August, 2009, I was in San Diego, California spending time with some of the different communities of the Navy and Marine Corps. During the first week, I was at Camp Pendleton with the Marines. We learned about the Marine Corps mission and values, and especially what Marine Officers do in the fleet. We fired different types of weapons, went on a hump, and spent a day at MOUT, which was learning urban warfare tactics.

The second week was submarine week; there we spent most of the time at Pont Loma learning about the sub force and what it had to offer. We spent underway on the USS ASHVILLE for 24 hours, and during this time had a chance to talk to the officers onboard, talk to the crew, and have a meal with the Commanding Officer. We were also given briefs about the sub force and what its mission is. The officers and crew showed us the technical aspects of their jobs and what a day in their life was like.

The third week was aviation week, where we spent on day with a helicopter squadron, another day we got the chance to fly in a T-34 training plane, and went to Miramar to see the Marine Corps aviation community.

The last week was surface week, where we got hands on training and experience with the surface warfare community. I spent four days on the destroyer USS STOCKDALE, where I got to spend time on the quarterdeck, learn how to navigate the ship and about sonar with my running mate, and talked to officers and enlisted about their job and experiences in the Navy and specifically the surface warfare community.

I really enjoyed my time CORTRAMID. I think it was an unbelievable learning experience that showed some of what the Navy and Marine Corps have to offer. It was also a very gratifying experience to talk to commissioned officers as well as enlisted sailors and marines about their experiences and their recommendations for us.



at

2nd Class Cruise

By MIDN Komlos

For approximately two weeks in June of 2009, I was stationed with the crew of the USS OHIO. During those two weeks, we spent eight days underway traversing the Pacific Ocean from Bangor, Washington to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Although I had only a short time to spend with the crew on board, the knowledge I gained and the experiences I had will not only help me through my future naval career but also through life.

On base in Bangor, the eight other Midshipmen and I met the crew, toured the boat that was to be our home for the next eight days, met the Commodore of the submarine squadron to which the OHIO is attached, and familiarized ourselves with the base's many training facilities and simulators. From practicing diving and surfacing to scanning the horizon for possible targets through a periscope, we learned much of the intricate details that go into operations on board a nuclear submarine in the United States Navy.

Throughout our days below the waves, the Midshipmen and I continued learning and observing the many aspects of daily operations on board the OHIO. From running casualty drills, to running the nuclear reactor, there was never a dull moment on this cruise. Our running mates helped us get acclimated to under-sea life and introduced us to some of the more colorful characters. There always seemed something going on, and visiting the different divisions and learning of each rates specific skills and responsibilities. Of course, hands on learning was also of great importance, so we all had a chance to take the Conn (be the officer in charge of the ship heading and direction) as well as jump in the driver's seat and be at the helm.

We arrived safely in Pearl Harbor right on schedule, enjoyed a day of leisure on the island seeing the sights, and enjoyed the beautiful weather before we all hopped back on a plane for the main land. However short my time on the USS OHIO may have been, it was a time that I will personally never forget.



Mountain Warfare

By MIDN Matyas

This past summer my fellow 2/C Marine-options and I flew out to Reno, Nevada to spend ten days in the Sierra-Nevada Mountains. Our training took place in Bridgeport, California at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. While there, we were given many topnotch survival classes by some extremely experienced Marines. We received training and practical application experience in rock climbing, repelling, stream crossing, rope bridging, terrain navigation, and many other unique skills. Also, we spent a lot of our time humping through the mountains; one day we marched and climbed for about 13 hours, it was a great experience. On top of training in one of the most scenic environments that I have ever been in, the training provided many opportunities for us to develop our leadership abilities alongside of, and in front of, our peers from NROTC units all across the nation.



EOD Summer Cruise

By MIDN Steinberger

This past summer, I participated in the SPECOPS/EOD Summer Cruise. I was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 12 in Little Creek, VA. Some of the events that we took part in were an obstacle course at the unit, night training operations, multiple days out on the water, Pre-Screening Tests (PSTs), a tour of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 (MDSU2), and an introduction to various components of EOD School.

A significant part of an EOD technician's training happens at the mobile unit. As Midshipmen, we assisted in this training by building mine fields for the techs to navigate through, acting as hostages with fake improvised explosive devices (IEDs) attached to our bodies for the techs to render safe, and replacing various parts of the course after one tech ran through it and before the next one came through. This part of the cruise gave me great insight into the various missions that EOD techs handle and just how important it is to be mentally strong and physically capable in this line of work. The obstacle

course was made up of multiple stations with tasks at each station and the whole evolution was timed so it was necessary for the techs to run between each station with quite a bit of gear.

We were also involved in training for another platoon of EOD techs at a nearby Army base. They were training to work with the Navy SEALs and needed to work on hostage situations and more obstacle courses. We did many of the same tasks in this training evolution except that this training occurred over night, where the other training happened during the day back at the unit. While we were out at the Army base, we also got to witness many demolition demonstrations. The EOD platoon that we were with demonstrated the effectiveness of many of the tools that are used in Iraq and Afghanistan.



We spent multiple days out on the water learning about small boat maneuvering techniques, water insertions from a small boat, and recovering parachutes for a team that was practicing static line jumping into water. We also visited MDSU 2 for a brief on the diving and salvage component of the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) and we visited a diving site and witnessed hard hat diving.

One of the most beneficial parts of the cruise was our introduction to EOD School. We were introduced to the first few classroom lessons of EOD school, we tried on the bomb suit and attempted to identify a fake, used for training, piece of ordnance, and practiced driving one of the EOD robots around the mobile unit.

Overall, this cruise was a great experience and an outstanding way to learn about one of the smallest communities in the Navy. Although not all my friends that I met on this cruise were selected for EOD training, I know that we all learned quite a bit and had a great time. Everyone that we met was very helpful and answered all of our questions to the best of their abilities.



Drill Team

By MIDN Grenier

Recently Purdue NROTC Drill Team competed at Memphis University's 3rd annual Beale Street Drill Meet. This was our Drill Team's first competition this year and the first competition ever for many of the members. The Drill Team is currently made up of mostly Fourth class and Third class Midshipmen, and is lead by Midshipman Second Class Jason Grenier, and advised by Gunnery Sergeant Gonya. The Drill Team took the eight hour drive to Memphis on Friday March 26, and competed on the 27th. The competition went well despite being comprised of mostly underclassmen and looks forward to a very promising future. The experience was greatly beneficial for the fourth class and taught them skills they can take back to their companies. The Drill Team also provides leadership experiences as there are multiple events that Drill Team participates in, such as platoon and squad level drill as well as armed drill competitions. Next year, we plan on competing at the University of Wisconsin and again at Memphis; there are also plans to restart the Purdue NROTC Boilermaker Open where Drill Team will be competing at home against a large number of opponents.



Klondike Special Friends

In the past academic year, over 20 Midshipmen have been Special Friends at Klondike Elementary School. This program, similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, pairs Midshipmen with a student who could benefit from some extra attention. These students often have difficult family situations or problems in school. Once a week, Midshipmen will meet with his/her student for lunch and a recess period. Although this sounds quite simple, it is a very rewarding experience. During the winter months, we typically play board games, help the students with their classes, or play indoor sports. When the warm weather hits, we head outside to either the jungle gym or the basketball court. It isn't necessarily the activity that matters, but instead the fact the students have a caring person in their somewhat unstable lives.

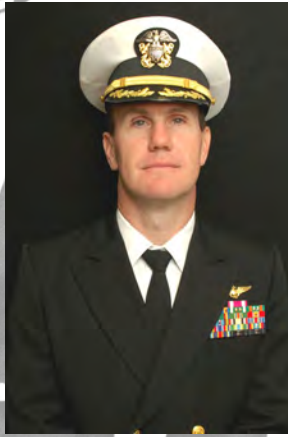
One second grader in particular this past semester did not eat or speak during her first meeting with her special friend. By the third week, she was visibly more confident. A total of three hours made a positive and lasting impact on this girl. Efforts are also made to pair a Midshipman with the same student until they move on to middle school to create a more lasting bond. These students have some big goals for their lives, and the Midshipmen give them someone to look up to and confide in. The Midshipmen are an important asset to Klondike Elementary School and make a tremendous impact in the course of each student's future.



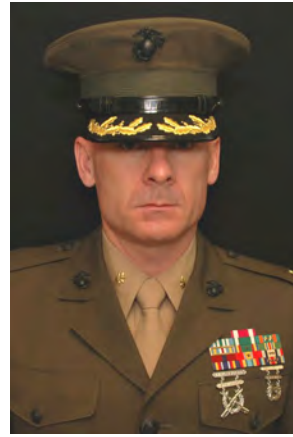
Unit Staff



CAPT Jones



CDR Downing



Maj Butts



GySgt Gonya



LT Beebe



LT Guard



LT Porfirio



LT Muehr



Mr. O'Malley

Unit Staff



Mrs. Matthews



Mr. Tanner



Mr. Randall

Boilerman Staff

Student Editors

O/C Gaidis
MIDN 2/C Marder

Unit Staff Editor

LT Guard

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MIDN 1/C King
MIDN 1/C Torielli
MIDN 2/C Grenier
MIDN 2/C Kagan
MIDN 2/C Komlos
MIDN 3/C Rueter
MIDN 3/C McQuillin
MIDN 4/C Rader
MIDN 4/C Wagnor