

The Boilerman

2010-2011



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Fall 2010 BNCO Letter

Once again we mark the conclusion of another great fall semester here at Purdue NROTC. Upperclassmen were hard at work before the semester even started to get the new freshmen adjusted to the challenges they would face as members of one of the most elite ROTC units in the country and to life as a Purdue Boilermaker. Other notable events that took place included our celebration of the 235th birthday of our Navy and Marine Corps at our annual ball with a visit by the magnanimous RDML Robert Kamensky. We also continued the classic rivalries between the other forces as we commenced the Commander's Cup against the Army and Air Force in mid October.

This fall semester has also brought a couple new faces to the unit. We welcomed LT Garcia as the new Alpha Company Officer and LT Greenspan as the new Charlie Company Officer. Both officers have been a valued addition to our team here at Purdue NROTC. The Battalion witnessed a reconstruction of the coveted Honor Platoon Challenge. The incorporation of GPA, physical fitness assessment scores, platoon on platoon challenges and close order drill competitions ensures that the winner is overall the most complete and balanced platoon in the Battalion and with eight platoons in total the competition has been as intense as any we've ever seen.

As Battalion Commander I focused on the 3 areas most important to developing Midshipmen mentally, morally, and physically: GPA, PFA scores and volunteering. We have strived in all three areas and I can confidently say that we grow stronger with each passing semester. As our country and our Navy/Marine Corps team continue to meet the uncertain future ahead we can be assured that the young men and women coming out of Purdue NROTC are among the most prepared and capable to take on those challenges. Lastly, I would like to thank all those in the Battalion for their hard work and dedication over this semester and especially to those who I've had the privilege to be with for the past four and a half years. Good luck to everyone next semester and congratulations to our newest Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants!

Go Navy! Semper Fi! And Boiler Up!

Daniel J. Kamensky

Fall 2010 Battalion Commanding Officer

Spring 2011 BNCO Letter

A semester in review.

I write to you today as the senior class prepares to embark on a journey for which our preparation began four years ago. We have all chosen the path less traveled, and a profession that demands the highest standards of moral, ethical, and physical fitness. Naval service is not for everyone as shown by the senior class, which began with approximately 80 midshipmen and will finish with 40.

As the Battalion Commander I was able to witness first hand the excellent leaders that this program has built. This semester required the best flexibility, dedication, and problem solving the Battalion leadership had to offer; they did not disappoint. At the start of the semester the Battalion headquarters was challenged to look for ways to improve the quality of time spent at Battalion events such as our drill period and Physical Training (PT) sessions. For the first time in recent history we instituted an afternoon PT option, in which the midshipmen chose to attend in the afternoon or morning. This resulted in smaller PT groups and was a large contributor to us exceeding the challenge of our Commanding Officer, Captain Jones, of improving the battalion wide physical fitness assessment score by six to seven percent, we increased it by 7.4 percent.

Another challenge was finding a way to have less “powerpoint time” and more hands on time. We accomplished this by having many hands on evolutions. This included team building and leadership exercises on the ropes courses, fundamentals of firefighting and equipment use with the Purdue Fire Department, basic tactical movements of Visit Board Search and Seizure teams, and leadership speeches from the likes of Head Football Coach Danny Hope, among other things.

While I am biased, I believe that if one looks through an objective lens, they would see a semester that was very successful in improving the knowledge and leadership skills of the Midshipmen. This was in no small part due to the staff side providing the proper environment and guidance, and the Midshipman leaders taking advantage of the opportunities presented and making the most of them.

As I depart Purdue, I hold no regrets as this program has taken me across the globe, and provided me many unique experiences the normal college student does not have. I wish Midshipman Keck the best of luck as he takes over the reigns as the Battalion Commander and would like to personally thank all of those that support the battalion through their generous donations of time and money. Finally, I would like to wish all of the underclass Midshipmen good luck and to always Boiler Up!

Michael Massel
Spring 2011 Battalion Commanding Officer

Commissioned Seniors Fall 2010



2ndLt Kevin Blank



Ensign James
Brigowatz



Ensign Daniel
Kamensky



Ensign Ryan
Kaczorowski



Ensign Travis Lee



Ensign John Milne IV

Commissioned Seniors Fall 2010



Ensign Christopher
Payne



Ensign William
Robbins



Ensign Emille
Torielli

Commissioned Seniors Spring 2011



Ensign Steven M.
Berres



Ensign Christian J.
Blachford



Ensign Ryan L.
Corbin

Commissioned Seniors Spring 2011



Ensign Brittany A.
Davila



2ndLt Mason S. Dill



2ndLt Scott A.
Easley



2ndLt Quinton R.
Featherstone



2ndLt Chad M.
Greene



Ensign Anthony D.
Hustedt

Commissioned Seniors Spring 2011



2ndLt Jason R.
Grenier



Ensign Erin R.
Jacobson



2ndLt Joshua R.
Kuiper



Ensign Mark R.
Lasater



Ensign Megan F.
Maloney



Ensign Andrew J.
Marvel

Commissioned Seniors Spring 2011



Ensign Michael J.
Massel



2ndLt Daniel R.
Matyasse



Ensign Justin W.
Otto



Ensign Magnus D.
Perkins



Ensign John J.
Rademacher, Jr.



2ndLt Anthony L.
Robertson

Commissioned Seniors Spring 2011



Ensign Gregory P.
Taylor



Ensign Raymond D.
Volle



Ensign Nathen A.
Whisler



2ndLt Chad R.
Wilson



Ensign Issac R.
Zimmerman

Summer Cruises

1/C Surface Cruise

By: MIDN 1/C Keck

This summer I was stationed with the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) based out of San Diego, CA. However, we spent less than 2 days actually in the San Diego port. I was one of 30 Midshipman doing my summer cruise aboard this boat, and the only one from Purdue. The first 10 days we spent cruising up and down the west coast doing various training exercises for the crew. While underway we shadowed our running mate so we could see what their job as a Junior Officer entailed. In addition to shadowing my running mate I stood watch under instruction on the bridge where they drive the ship from 0400-0800 every day.



We ended up in Victoria, Canada for four days to celebrate the Canadian Navy's 100th anniversary. During this time we rented a hotel room and toured the Victoria area. One of the most memorable times in Canada was when I met with the Rear Admiral of the Carrier Strike Group, the Commanding Officer of the Reagan, and an Australian, Canadian, and New Zealand Commanding Officer. We left Victoria and headed back to San Diego for less than a day, and turned right around to Pearl Harbor, HI. During this time I roomed with the Shooters. They are in charge of launching and recovering the aircraft during flight operations. They got me on the flight deck during the operations and I was able to stand within arm shot of them when they launched the planes. I was also able to go to the rear of the ship and have the planes land right over top of me as the Shooter in the back put the tension on the wires to catch the planes. I can't believe how the carrier can launch and recover that many aircraft in the small space they do.

Another evolution I was able to take part in was having helicopters replenish the ship by dropping cargo from another ship. I got to run out and hook one of the cargo nets to the helo as they were transferring the gear from our ship. On the way into Pearl Harbor I was able to participate in one of the most moving things in my life to this point. We "manned the rails" meaning we all stood in our whites at attention and saluting as we passed the sunken USS Arizona. This moment sent chills down my back and I will remember it forever. We pulled into the port and were released from there finishing the cruise. I flew home after spending the day walking Waikiki Beach and swimming in the ocean. This cruise was an excellent learning experience and I am happy I ended up on the USS Ronald Reagan.



Special Warfare Cruise

By: MIDN 1/C Perkins

The Special Warfare Cruise sent MIDN Beauchamp and MIDN Perkins to the west coast to experience the thrills of being an operator. These Midshipmen learned how hard it is to be a SEAL and how training never stops. While in Coronado, CA the Midshipmen started their morning with martial arts training with a professional mixed martial arts fighter. Then after two hours of grueling fighting they were sent to the beach to do all sorts of physical training with SEAL Team One. This included logs, pull ups, rope climbs, and other exercises that are...fun. Once the beach PT was finished nothing felt better than a dip in the surf. After a week in Coronado, the Midshipmen were sent to Toole, UT for special reconnaissance training. Going from sea level to base camp at 7000 FT was quite an experience. The next day after arriving in Utah the Midshipmen climbed a mountain at night with SEAL Team Seven to a height of 12,000 FT with a pack. Fighting the altitude, snow, and cold, the Midshipmen arrived at the top of the mountain just as the sun was beginning to rise over the mountain peaks. For the rest of the cruise the midshipmen were playing the opposing forces for the SEALs. They dressed in enemy garb and had enemy weapons. They guarded a mountain town while the SEALs observed them for a few days then attacked their base in a mock fire fight. Overall, the Special Warfare cruise was a success in motivating and inspiring Midshipmen to become SpecWar Officers and get to BUDs.

Marine Mountain Warfare

By: MIDN 2/C Wilson

For eleven days in July, 2nd Class Marine Option midshipmen were sent through rigorous training at the Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) in Bridgeport, California. There the Marine Options underwent training to get a small picture of what actually goes on during mountainous warfare sorties around the globe. The first day was spent collecting Midshipmen from all over the country at the Reno International Airport in Reno, Nevada. Midshipmen were indoctrinated to what the tempo was going to be through a process of “baptism by fire”. There in the airport, as happy patrons went to collect their luggage at the baggage claim area, were midshipmen in tri-color camouflage as well as Marine Corps MARPATs. Intensity was key and that was the way from there on out. When we arrived at the MWTC near Bridgeport, after a three hour bus ride that sent us through the Yosemite National Forest, midshipmen ran off the bus and got in line as they were placed into their platoons for the training regimen.

From that point on midshipmen were introduced to barracks life during training and a chow hall that was quite a ways from the barracks themselves. Day two was spent in the auditorium located at the base for PowerPoint presentations and lecture style learning on the obstacles midshipmen may face during the next ten days.

We finally broke out the brown suede combat boots on the next day and went on a five mile hump through the mountains down to the Lower Landing Zone (LLZ). There we were in audience for more briefs on mountain warfare survival tips and that is where we learned to clean animals. This was a great experience due to the fact that those were the best goat ribs any of the 2nd Class midshipmen from Purdue ever had.

Later on in the week at MWTC, we were sent through day of land navigation that, based off of prior beliefs on previous land navigation, stretched beyond eternity. This was conducted on top of LZ Penguin which sat roughly at 8,500 feet above sea level. The area known as LZ Penguin served as the staging area for all other training sorties done on the mountain. From there, we went on a four hour patrol up to Mean Peak, (elevation roughly 10,500 feet), where the first snowballs of the training were thrown, remember, this was during July and yes there was snow. Further training sorties included making fires from different materials found, making a “hooch” which is a man-made shelter using materials found, and going for a quick river crossing in nothing but skivvies in a river that was 40 degrees year round. This had to be the coldest water the Marine Option 2nd Class Midshipmen ever went through.

Summing up, MWTC and Mountain Warfare School has been, so far, the best experience I have had while being a Midshipman here at Purdue.

Summer Cruises

Freshman Orientation

By: OC Whisler

Freshmen Orientation at Purdue NROTC is the first step students take towards joining the Navy and Marine Corps. This week long orientation exposes new midshipmen to military physical fitness, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, rank structures, and marching. The foundation for our future Navy and Marine Corps leaders begins here. Freshmen Orientation begins every morning with physical fitness at 0500. Select members of the NROTC students from prior years lead the freshmen in calisthenics, running, and push-ups and sit-ups, preparing new members for the PRT that is held at the end of the week. After PT, it's off to the barracks to shower and march to chow before continuing the plan of the day. Throughout the week, freshmen are taught basic military facing movements on the drill deck in the Armory. Emphasis is on attention to detail and following directions. Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and Marine MECEPS are all active during drill to provide instruction and work one on one with the freshmen. Drill is a big part of life as a Midshipman during the regular semester, and orientation is no different.

The week is rich with military customs and traditions, military education, and building *esprit de corps*. Each student gets to test their dedication to serve, knowing that at any moment they can Drop On Request (DOR) and return to life as a civilian. Those that overcome the temptation, the pressure, and the self-doubt have proven to themselves and others that they have what it takes to serve their country.

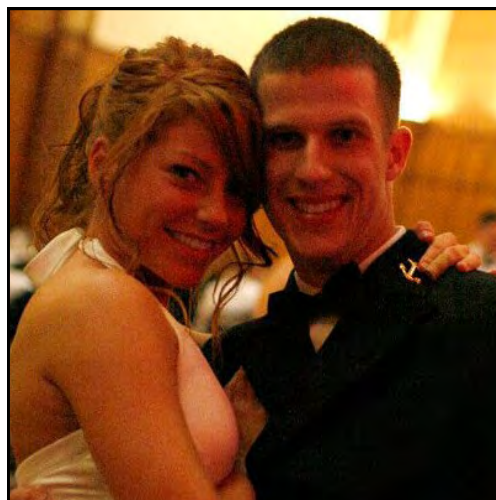
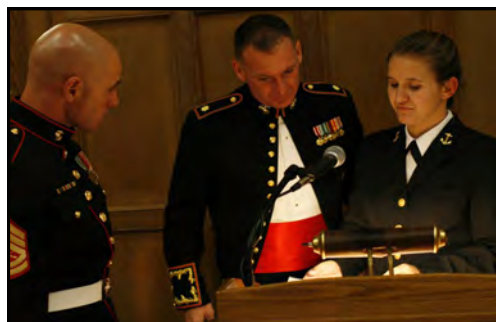
The hard work and effort that each member puts forth during Freshmen Orientation pay off during the last day. With a new stylish haircut, issued clothing and a new sense of pride, students are reunited with their families. They have learned how to wear the uniform, march in ranks, and carry themselves with a new sense of honor. Parents can rest at ease that their child has joined one of the oldest and most respected organizations in the world; the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



235th Navy Marine Corp. Birthday Ball

By: OC Shen

On October 30th, 2010 the Battalion gathered in the South Ballroom of the Purdue Memorial Union to jointly celebrate the Navy and Marine Corps' 235th Birthday. The guest of honor at the ball that night was Rear Admiral Kamensky. The evening went flawlessly, the sword detail was expertly led by Officer Candidate Shen, and the color guard was led by Midshipmen 1/C Michael Massel. The traditional birthday cake was cut by the oldest and youngest members of the battalion, Midshipmen 4/C Brooke Sweeney and Officer Candidate Georgia Houston, joining them were the guest of honor and Captain Eugene Jones.



Visit From Don Williams

By: MIDN 1/C Massel

On October 15, the Midshipmen (MIDN) of Purdue University were treated to a surprise visit from astronaut and retired Navy Captain Don Williams. While he was unable to make it to the first annual ring ceremony the previous week he offered to stop by during homecoming the following week.

Due to the nature of his schedule he wasn't able to tell us when he would be able to meet with the MIDN until just a few hours before hand. A significant amount of MIDN still showed up to hear the sea stories of Williams. He discussed the different missions he had been on as well as how he got to be an astronaut, which proved to be very interesting for the MIDN as many of them hope to travel to space some day as well.

One of the most notable questions asked by the MIDN was, "What is harder, landing the shuttle or landing on a [aircraft carrier]?" Williams struggled to come up with an answer for a few moments and finally concluded that, "They're pretty much a toss up, you practice the shuttle landing in a sim thousands of times, whereas the [aircraft carrier] landings are always a changing environment that you can't always prepare for."

After a presentation and question and answer session the visit concluded with well wishes from Williams and a photo shoot and as Astronaut Williams says, "Fly safe!"



Marine Corps Marathon

By: MIDN 1/C Jennings

This year marked the 35th Marine Corps Marathon. The MCM was started as an idea to raise support for the military, the Marines in particular, just after the Vietnam War. The Peoples' Marathon, as it is also known as because it is the largest marathon without prize money, started with just over 1,000 runners. This year more than 20,000 runners completed this historic marathon. Each year there have been a few midshipmen and/or staff traveling to Washington D.C. to compete. Two of our staff members were in attendance this year: Major Butts and LT Muehr. All the runners from Purdue who competed enjoyed their time running the scenic 26.2 mile course through Washington. The course route passed by many memorials and ended at the same location as the first MCM, Marine Corps War Memorial.

1st Annual Tri-Service Ring Commissioning Ring Ceremony

By: MIDN 1/C Massel

A Night To Remember

On October 8th, 2010, three Midshipmen and four cadets held the first ever Purdue ROTC Tri-Service Commissioning Ring Ceremony. Hopefully this will be a tradition that will carry on for years to come. It was the first time a Big Ten school had a ROTC ring made and a ring ceremony, and the second school in the nation outside of academy and corps of cadet schools. It was also the first time Purdue ever allowed a ring to be created for a specific group on campus, and it was the first change that has ever been allowed to be made to Purdue's signet style ring. This was also the first time Purdue approved a non-gold ring, which was the combat ring that is made out of stainless steel.

As one might imagine all of these firsts did not come easily. The group of Midshipmen (MIDN) and Cadets that was formed, which formally became known as the Purdue ROTC Ring Committee, worked tirelessly for 10 months to accomplish something that they were originally told would not be possible.

The idea was originally conceived by then MIDN 2/C Marder and myself during "dead week" of the fall semester of 2009. According to Marder, "It came about really on a whim, while we were discussing class rings on a couch." Our immense pride of Purdue was what turned idea into a reality. After many phone calls, I finally connected with Dan Rhodes, the Chief Marketing Officer of the Alumni Association, and received the support that was needed for this endeavor to take off. After Christmas Break, I formed a committee with representatives of each branch, and the first meetings were held. MIDN Grenier was selected as the Marine option representative.

The committee was originally told that the ring probably would not be approved and if it was it would not be produced until May of 2011. However with the support of Alumni Association, Purdue saw the need for this ring to recognize the fact that Purdue ROTC is regarded as one of the top commissioning programs in the country. As a result the design was approved within a few short months and the endless hours presenting the ring to different groups, setting up ordering dates and websites, making contacts and planning for the ceremony had begun.

The ring was designed with the Cadet's/MIDN's commissioning year and service crest on one side, the Purdue Seal on top, and the Purdue Memorial Union (PMU) on the side opposite the service crest. The Griffin and Shield on top is symbolic not only of Purdue and its mission of discovery, learning, and engagement, but is also symbolic of how each Cadet and MIDN will be guarding their country, analogous to Greek mythology in which the griffin is the sign of a guardian of the great divine or a great treasure. The PMU is significant because it was built in honor of all of the son's and daughter's of Purdue who have served in foreign wars.

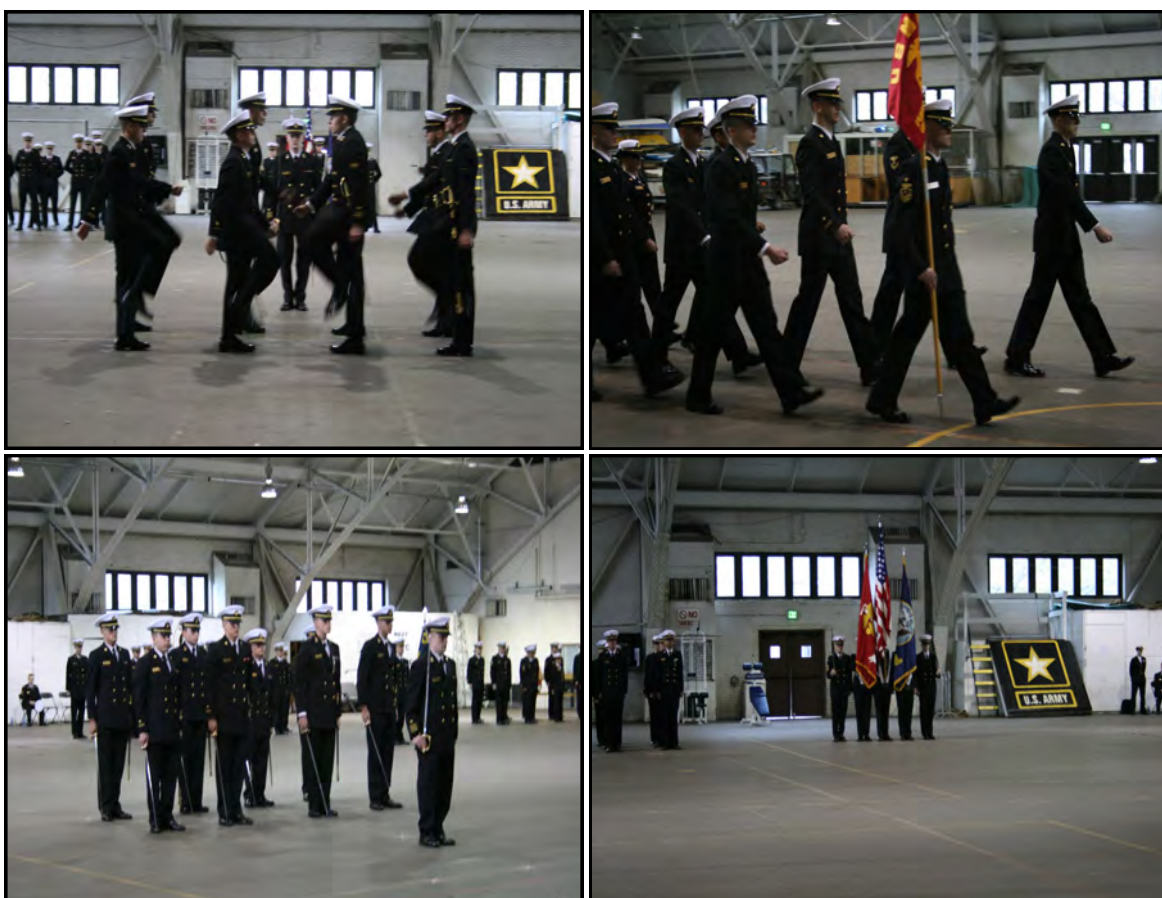
After much planning and hard work the event came to fruition. The night went off without a hitch, with 24 seniors receiving their rings, and over 100 people in attendance. At the conclusion of the dinner, Major General Erika Steuterman, Purdue and Air Force ROTC alum, was the guest of honor and spoke of about her time in ROTC and how it helped mold her future. After her speech she presented each MIDN and Cadet with their ring as the background of each recipient was received. The ceremony concluded with all MIDN/Cadets participating in a first dance as ring bearers. A definite success for the members of the committee who put the ceremony on and for Purdue ROTC as a new tradition has been started. If you are interested in purchasing a ring, or supporting this wonderful new tradition contact Cadet Hadley Miller (hrleroy@purdue.edu) or MIDN Dustin Flaum (dflaum@purdue.edu).



Fall 2010 Change of Command

By: OC Shen

On December 10th 2010 then MIDN 1/C Daniel J. Kamensky turned over command of the Battalion to MIDN 1/C Michael Massel. MIDN 1/C Daniel J. Kamensky commissioned three weeks later as an Ensign in the United States Navy and moved on to flight training at Pensacola Florida. The ceremony also oversaw the awarding of academic awards and scholarships to top performing midshipmen. Also honored were the commissioning seniors including nine Navy Ensigns and one Marine 2ndLt.



Honor Platoon Competition

By: MIDN 4/C Fisher

The 2011 spring honor platoon competition was once again a success. This fun twist on physical training allows each platoon to show off and motivates everyone to do just a little bit better. It began, as always, with the tug of war. Competition was fierce and through all the cheering Alpha 1 and Mike 2 stood out among the rest. For the final match it was a tough battle with the rope going back and forth often but ultimately Alpha triumphed!

After that exhilarating start we all broke off into smaller groups to rack up some points in other events. There were some two platoon events such as dodge ball and ultimate ball. There was high intensity but the Marines showed greater organization and speed.

Other events included pull-ups, ammo can press, and relay sprints. In each of these events the goal was to do the most in the given amount of time. First place got a certain number of points while second got slightly fewer and then third got the lowest amount (but still got some).

So the points were tallied up, and we waited with baited breath to hear the results... and the winner was: Mike 2! Best of luck to all the platoons for the next Honor Platoon Competition.



Commanders Cup

By: MIDN 2/C Steiner

Every year, Midshipmen and Cadets from the three ROTC commissioning programs face off in a variety of events, and at the end of the year, the program with the highest total score takes home the coveted Commander's Cup. This year, the programs went head to head in 14 events, ranging from Weightlifting to Ultimate Frisbee. Competition is always fierce for the title of "best athletic program," and the events make for great spectator entertainment.

Throughout the year, each branch was within one or two points of first place, and the leader was constantly changing.

Without further ado, the results are in! After a grueling semester, Purdue Navy ROTC came in a close second for the Commander's Cup, falling just one point short of Air Force. Congratulations and thank you to all Midshipmen who fought hard in each of the events! Navy placed first in Basketball, Frisbee, and Soccer this semester, also competing in Track, Tug-o-war, Volleyball, and Tennis. With the noted improvement in the Battalion's PT scores this semester, you can be sure that we will again be top contenders for the cup next year. Congratulations to all of our Midshipmen graduating; best of luck to you in the Fleet! We have the greatest confidence that you will continue to distinguish yourselves. Boiler Up, and have a great summer!



Notre Dame Basketball Tournament

By: MIDN 2/C Raymundo

In the month of January, the NROTC Purdue basketball team traveled to Notre Dame for the annual basketball tournament. This tournament showcases teams from across the nation who compete amongst each other to see who has what it takes to be number one in the ROTC basketball world. As usual, the basketball tournament is a three day period; with each team put into a bracket. How the tournament decides what bracket your team will be in is on the performance that the respective basketball team had last year.



The respective dates for the Notre Dame Basketball tournament this year was January 14, 15, and the 16. Prior to the tournament, Purdue's NROTC basketball team practiced in the early morning; to be more specific, practice would start around 5:30 in the morning. The practices were held by the team captains: Midshipman 1/c Josh Kuiper and Staff Sergeant Scott Easley.

The ROTC Notre Dame Basketball tournament is one of many opportunities offered to the NROTC battalion to work on teamwork and camaraderie amongst each other. Not only that, it also provided a way for each member to get to know one another. Although the Purdue NROTC did not win the tournament, they did win their respective bracket. Let it be known that the Purdue NROTC program will come back to the tournament and once again compete at a high level.

Memphis Drill Meet

By: MIDN 4/C Pratt

The Purdue NROTC Drill Team traveled to University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee, to compete in the fourth annual Beale Street Drill Meet. The competition, hosted by the University of Memphis NROTC consisted of an inspection and a drill card to perform. The Purdue team placed third in Platoon Basic Drill, and brought home a trophy for display in the Armory.

The Drill Team practiced two times a week during the fall and spring semester, under the instruction Drill Team Commander Midshipman 1/C Grenier, and Gunnery Sergeant Gonya. Beale Street Drill Meet was the only competition the team was able to participate in this year, due to scheduling conflicts. Achieving third place among schools like University of California at Berkley and University of Texas was quite a reward for the effort made by the team.

Being a part of the Drill Team has greatly improved my close order drill skills. Going to Memphis has shown me what I am responsible for and what I will be responsible for in the Navy. After the team received our award we received liberty. I was completely responsible for myself in a foreign environment. Coming to this understanding and handling myself appropriately has prepared me for what life will be like as an officer in the Navy.

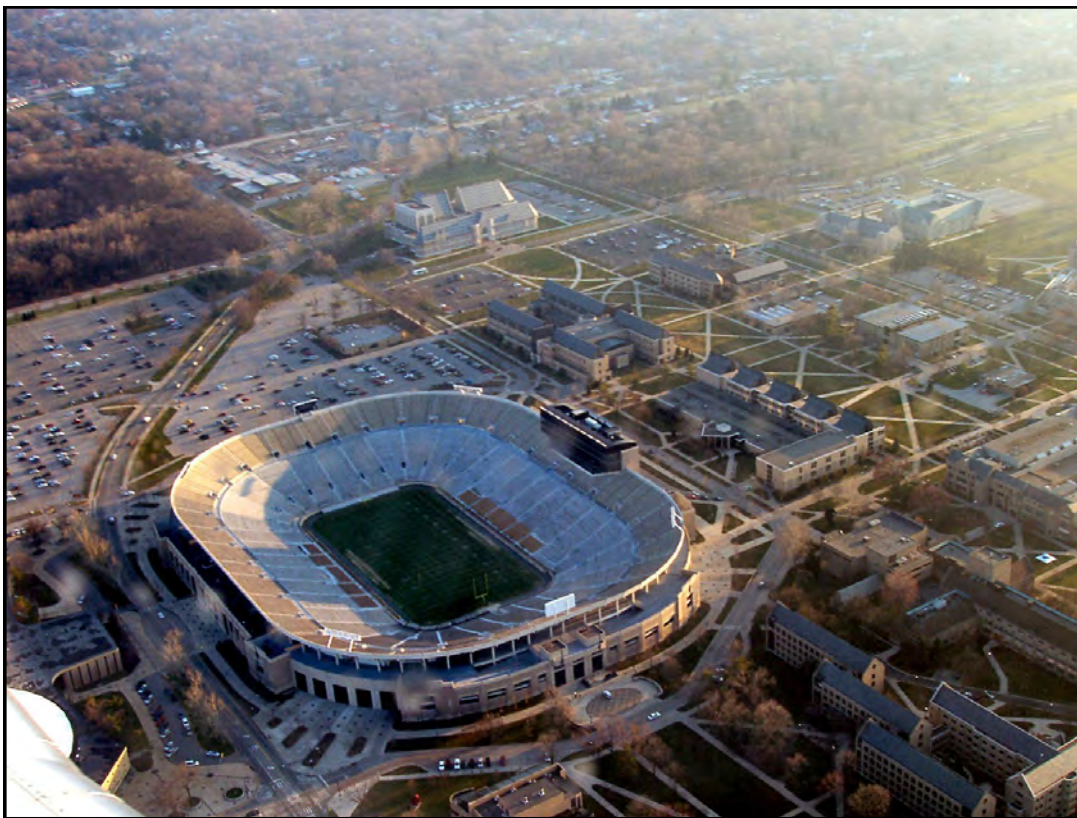
Going to the drill competition resulted in close interaction with the Marines of the battalion, including staff sergeants, something which otherwise would not have happened for most Navy Midshipmen. I enjoyed becoming familiar this part of the Battalion.



Notre Dame Leadership Weekend

By: MIDN 2/C Flaum

During this Spring Semester several Midshipmen were given the opportunity to travel and participate in the Notre Dame Leadership Conference, on the campus of Notre Dame. The weekend was designed to expose us to numerous guest speakers from many different backgrounds as well as interact and debate with other Midshipmen from across the country. Guest speakers focused on 'dynamic leadership from a positional perspective,' among those included: Vice Admiral McRaven, Commander Joint Special Operations Command; Rear Admiral LaRoche, Deputy Commander Military Sealift Command; Colonel Alford, Commanding Officer of the Basic School; Captain Dolan, a Navy JAG working as a Staff Judge Advocate, and Commander Prokopius from Submarine Squadron 6. The weekend also included views from the civilian side from the Superintendent of the Indiana State Police Department Dr. Paul Whiteshall. Overall this was an incredible experience to not only learn valuable leadership skills but to interact with Midshipmen from over 20 different schools.



2011 Battalion Softball Team

By: MIDN 1/C Garbacz

The 2011 Scallywags looked to improve upon their 2010 finish of 4-1. The 2010 season started off strong with a 3-0 start resulting in a number 8 seed for the playoffs. A first round bye and a decisive victory in the second round took them to the quarter finals where they lost to the eventual 2010 Men's Open League champs. The 2010 season was anchored by the masterful pitching of then MIDN 2/C, Michael Massel and the slugging of then MIDN 2/C Quinton Featherstone and Dan Kelly.

Sights were set very high for the 2011 season with the league championship as the ultimate goal. The team was anchored by the return of 7 position players including MIDN 1/C Dan Matyasse, Andrew Marvel, Ben Garbacz, Dan Kelly, Erin Jacobson and Quinton Featherstone. New additions to the lineup included GySgt Gonya at shortstop and MIDN 4/C Evans at second. The season started off with a 2-1 record in regular season play which resulted in a number 14 seed for the playoffs after a first round bye they lost in the second round after a hard fought game ending the season for the Scallywags with a 2-2 record.



Firearms Safety Training

By: MIDN 3/C Phelps

On one particular drill morning, Midshipmen had the opportunity to show their marksmanship skills. Lining up with a Smith and Wesson model 41 handgun, the shooters took aim down the sights and fired five shots at a one square foot target. The range safety officer for that day was Gunnery Sergeant Gonya. He began the morning with an introduction to firing range procedures, range safety, range commands, and finally, firing instructions. Each midshipman took their firing stance next to a table carrying ammunition, safety glasses, and the handgun itself. One MECEP was assigned per shooter to ensure safety protocols were followed and to provide assistance to each Midshipman. As the morning progressed, it became clear who possessed previous shooting experience as opposed to those who were shooting for the first time. There was a wide range of skills evident by the fact that throughout the morning there were targets which had five holes in the black circle, down to targets that were left completely untouched. Even with this varying range of abilities, each Midshipman took out of it a meaningful experience, which they can apply whenever they find themselves at a range in the fleet.



High Ropes Training

MIDN 4/C Forrest

As a prototype for what may happen in years to come, the regular drill for the week of 4 April 2011 was replaced with practical training events. One of these volunteer opportunities was to participate in the Purdue University high ropes course. Two groups of sixteen Midshipmen and Officer Candidates completed the three levels of tight wire challenges to coordinate their team-building skills on Tuesday 5 April 2011, and Saturday 9 April 2011. First, the enthusiastic crew that ran the course led the groups in a game of “flush tag” to encourage energy and further enthusiasm. Each group was then split into smaller groups that would go on the levels at different times. The challenges placed before each group questioned the limits of each group’s communication, planning, logic, and flexibility by various changing of the basic rules, such as banning the verbal communication half-way through the challenge or blind-folding some of the teammates. On the whole, the energy of the high ropes crew created a very fun and exciting atmosphere for the challenge.



Tactical Movements Training

By: MIDN 4/C Holland



The Tactical Movements drill period was instructed by OC Trindle and LT Greenspan. OC Trindle has trained for and performed these movements during his tours in the SEAL teams while LT Greenspan has training in visit board search and seizure (VBSS) operations. The students were instructed in the various methods of entering and clearing rooms of enemy threats. The Midshipmen taking part in this hands-on training exercise included both Ma-

rine and Navy options. This training is very valuable for Marine options because many of them could be performing these maneuvers in a few short years while serving as infantry officers. Navy options serving as Surface Warfare Officers (SWO) could possibly use these tactics while performing VBSS. This action consists of sending a small team to investigate a suspicious ship. A very small group of Navy options wishing to commission in the extremely competitive Special Warfare Community would definitely be using these tactics in the field should they successfully complete their training.

The training consisted of the two instructors teaching and demonstrating different movements to small groups of Midshipmen. Both instructors had different styles and focused on different aspects of the training. OC Trindle stressed speed and aggression while LT Greenspan focused on communication and situational awareness. This hands-on drill period was one of the most memorable and instructional drill periods I experienced this year as a 4/C Midshipman. I personally wish to compete for a service selection as a Special Warfare Officer and it was very exciting to receive hands-on training in a tactic so often used by current operators.

Indiana Veterans Home

MIDN 2/C Wagner

The Indiana Veterans home is a government funded retirement program which is offered to veterans of military service and the spouses. The programs mission is to provide, "...independent living and comprehensive care... as well as a beautiful, healthy and home like environment..." Residents at the Indiana Veterans Home are offered an array of different activities and events, which allow them to interact with their fellow neighbors. One of these events is an organized Bingo game, which takes place every



Sunday throughout the year. Midshipmen from Purdue University's NROTC will often assist with these events in order to give back to the West Lafayette community.

Due to the limited amount of staff, the organization of Bingo requires outside help, a void that the NROTC is happy to fill. Duties given to Midshipmen are to assist with the transportation of residents from their rooms to the main auditorium, where the Bingo event is held. Throughout the next hour, residents will play a couple games of Bingo, and Midshipman will assist in small tasks, such as helping resident with their playing cards. While the event progresses, Midshipmen have the opportunity to talk with several of the residents and gain insight from the experiences that these residents have undergone during their time in service. Volunteering at the Indiana Veterans Home is a privilege for Midshipman to serve their community and to gain a unique experience through their interaction with Veterans of our armed services.

Spring 2011 Change of Command

By: OC Shen

On April 16th 2011 the Battalion once again gathered together on the drill deck of the Armory for the Spring Change of Command ceremony. During the ceremony MIDN 1/C Michael Massel turned over command of the Battalion to MIDN 1/C Bryan C. Keck. MIDN 1/C Massel will commission on May 13th and then move on to flight training at Pensacola Florida. Also honored at the ceremony were over thirty other Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and MECEP's who won various awards, scholarships and honors. Among the awards handed out were the prestigious Barrett Award, the Dorothy Stratton memorial scholarship, and the Navy Marine Corp. League. Finally the ceremony honored the graduating seniors, twenty seven including nine Naval Aviators, one Naval Flight Officer, two Surface Warfare Officers, one Special Warfare Officer, four Submarine Warfare Officers, one Nurse, and Nine Marines. Immediately following the ceremony a cookout was held in the armory for the families and guests of all who attended.



4/C Letter Home

Dear Mom and Dad,

The “college experience” differs from individual to individual; however, I think it is safe to say that the “college experience” for an individual in Naval ROTC is the most unique experience of all. Waking up at 0430 everyday, working out at least twice a day, wearing a uniform from class to class on Tuesdays, and taking classes on land navigation, Marine Corps history, and five paragraph orders is far from the college norm. The amount of physical and mental pressure I encounter as a freshman female Marine Option remains unparalleled to any other endeavor of my life. Between the grueling rigors of freshman orientation, FTX, sandbag runs, combat fitness tests in freezing temperatures, and countless numbers of OCS style essays I continually push myself to the limit. While ROTC creates an inordinate amount of stress, I could not imagine what college would be like without it. I have never been more motivated or driven in my life. Ninety percent of the time my response to anything will be a motivational phrase like: “boom”, “yut”, or “rog”. Instead of singing in the shower, I call Marine Corps running cadences to myself. Even when casually walking I take most turns with ninety or forty-five degree pivots. I traded my Abercrombie and Fitch wardrobe for hoodies and tee shirts emblazoned with the Marine Corps emblem. Furthermore, I rarely respond to my first name anymore. I met many of my closest friends in this program, and made many of my fondest memories here too. I am thankful for my place as a Midshipman in Purdue University’s Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps and each day that it brings me closer to fulfilling my dream as a United States Marine Corps Officer.

Very Respectfully,

Brooke Sweeney
(aka Midshipman 4/C Sweeney)



1/C Letter Home

Dear Mom and Dad,

It is hard to believe that my time here is coming to an end. It seems like just a few days ago I was deciding which school to go to and what I was going to study. I think it is safe to say now that I made the right choice four years ago. The time I've had here has been awesome, and my last semester here ends one section of my life, and ushers in the beginning of life as a professional. The last semester was full of its own unique events, capping an excellent four years here at Purdue.

One of the most interesting aspects is to see how the changeover happens. I remember being the little freshman, scared and just trying to figure out what's going on. Now, we're the ones in charge of the whole show. We make the decisions and run the battalion, learning from what we had seen during our time here. Even though I had been through most of the events several times by this point, this year gave a different perspective, realizing this was the last time I would be doing a Change of Command, a Honor Platoon Competition, or a PNS inspection. But one of the most exciting events of the year was definitely the long awaited Dining In. We had heard the rumors of the occasion, and it was finally our time as a class to see what it was about. Dining In is basically the Senior dinner, but with a twist. Part of the tradition of the ceremony allows you to laugh at the people present and the ridiculous things they have done, and our class had plenty of moments like that. There's more to it, but I won't go into details. It was a nice though, a realization that we were finally nearing the finish line of college and our Naval careers were about to start. The moment I've looked forward for four years is so close now it's hard to believe.

V/r

MIDN 1/C Andrew Marvel

Michael Christian Scholarship Awardees

These scholarships are awarded in honor of LCDR Michael Christian who graduated from Purdue in 1964. He spent six years a POW in North Vietnam after being shot down in 1967. While in prison he resisted his captors and demonstrated great personal courage when he constructed an American flag for the other prisoners. These scholarships are awarded to midshipmen who demonstrate high aptitude for Naval Service and are in good standing with the unit. For more information on the scholarship or on opportunities to support the fund call (765) 494-2055.

MIDN 3/C Bureman, Mike Company

Midshipmen Bureman is a Sophomore in Mechanical Engineering Technology with an overall GPA of 3.92 which is outstanding. His recent accomplishments and projects include being a part of a Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) research and development team here at Purdue. In the past he has been an active member of the drill team and has held multiple squad leader billets within Mike Company in the Battalion.

MIDN 2/C Flaum, Alpha Company

Midshipman Flaum is one of the most proactive members of the entire Purdue NROTC Battalion. He flourished as the Battalion Training Officer by incorporating practical hands on leadership training. He actively coordinated activities through the university to teach hands on experience in leadership, CPR Qualification, aviation test preparation, tactical movements, and rifle/pistol qualifications. He shows his compassion by being involved with Invisible Children, an organization that supports the end of child soldiers, and displacement of men, women and children in the Uganda region of Africa. Midshipman Flaum stays active in the Purdue Ski and Snowboard club and is showing his adventurous side by being signed up to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa this summer. Midshipman Flaum is an excellent example of a well rounded individual as well as being a great mentor to the younger Midshipmen.

MIDN 2/C Matovina, Alpha Company

Midshipman Matovina has been one of the Battalion's strongest performers his entire career here. In January 2009 he was chosen against all his peers as Midshipman of the Month, and progressed to be the Midshipman of the Semester of Spring 2010. In this current semester he has thrived in the role as Platoon Commander by leading and setting the example to the younger Midshipmen. Not only does he excel by achieving above a 3.70 as a Physics Major, but he also scores a 295 out of 300 on the Physical Fitness Assessment. Midshipman Matovina has exemplary character and is an active volunteer to the Minority Engineering Program 5 hours a week for physics. He was selected to be the Alpha Company Commander for the Fall 2011 semester due to his impeccable leadership.

Michael Christian Scholarship Awardee's



MIDN 3/C Bureman

MIDN 2/C Matovina



MIDN 2/C Flaum

Navy and Marine Corps. Alumni League Awardee's

These scholarships are awarded to Midshipmen who demonstrate high aptitude for Naval service, are medically qualified, and are in good standing with the unit. For more information on the scholarship or on opportunities to support the fund call (765) 494-2055.

MIDN 3/C Phelps, Alpha Company

Midshipman Phelps is one of the strongest performers in Alpha Company as well as the Battalion. He currently is excelling as the Alpha Company Athletics Officer and Battalion Assistant Physical Training Instructor. He was recognized as the Spring 2011 Midshipman of the Semester because of the effort he puts forth in all his work. MIDN Phelps was also awarded the Alpha Company Leadership Award for the month of February which is given to a member of Alpha Company who demonstrates exceptional leadership and who is in good standing in the company. Outside of the Battalion he is lead percussionist in the Purdue Concert Band and takes the time to assist and teach the other members of his section. Midshipman Phelps is a superior example to those under him because of his hard work, willingness to volunteer, and dedication to the cause.

MIDN 2/C Noppenberger, Mike Company

Midshipmen Noppenberger is a Carmel, Indiana native and is a Mass Communications major with an overall GPA of 2.94 here at Purdue. He has held multiple leadership positions within Mike Company in the NROTC Purdue Battalion. He is a great asset to the battalion and this award because of his high enthusiasm and willingness to step forward and help others no matter what the task. This past semester he participated on the drill team and was a part of the group which brought home a 3rd place trophy.

MIDN 2/C Gerber, Alpha Company

Midshipmen Gerber is an outstanding Midshipman within the NROTC Purdue Battalion. His awarding of the Navy Marine Corp Alumni League award is a testament to his work ethic and leadership skills. This semester he had been an active member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Students for Free Enterprise, and the Battalion soccer team. He was awarded the 2010 Trifone Memorial Scholarship and is in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Midshipmen Gerber sets an excellent example for his peers and the community continually displaying the Navy core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Navy and Marine Corps. Alumni League Awardee's

MIDN 2/C Gerber



MIDN 2/C Noppenberger

MIDN 3/C Phelps



Martin Gutzwiller Award

The Martin Gutzwiller award is presented to the Midshipmen who demonstrates the highest GPA in Naval Science classes while simultaneously pursuing an engineering curriculum.

MIDN 1/C Bryan C. Keck, Alpha Company

Midshipmen Keck is a native of South Dakota. He matriculated to Purdue University in 2007 with a NROTC Scholarship. Midshipmen Keck has held many positions within the Battalion including Alpha Company Commanding Officer, Operations Officer, and Platoon Commander. Midshipmen Keck consistently demonstrates high moral character and superb leadership abilities, he has been tapped to become the next Battalion Commanding Officer in the Fall of 2011. He will graduate in December 2011 and hopes to attend the prestigious Navy Nuclear Power school to pursue a career as a Submarine Warfare officer in the US Navy.



Dorothy Stratton memorial Scholarship Awardee's

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 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 Hutchinson, Bravo Company

Midshipmen 3/C Hutchinson is an outstanding Midshipman within the Purdue NROTC Battalion. Her awarding of the Dorothy Stratton Scholarship is a true testament of her work ethic and leadership skills. Through the semester she has volunteered at the Indiana Veterans Home, Purdue University Center for Cancer Research, and many functions within the battalion. She is a fantastic example to her peers and a great example to the community regularly displaying the Navy core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

MIDN 3/C Rader, Alpha Company

Midshipman Rader is an active member of the Battalion and demonstrates leadership by example. She enthusiastically participates in the NROTC Purdue Rifle Drill Team as well as volunteering for many Battalion functions. As a student in Nuclear Engineering she still finds the time to have outstanding physical fitness. Not only is she training for the Marine Corps Marathon, she also has perfect scores on the push-up and sit-up portions of the Navy's Physical Fitness Assessment. Midshipman Rader is an outstanding example of dependability.



Professor of Naval Science Award

The Professor of Naval Science Award is presented to a midshipmen or Officer Candidate of the NROTC Purdue University who has met the lofty ideals and exacting standards set by the Professors of Naval Science, both past and present, and in recognition of his extraordinary achievements over the past four years. This award is the highest honor accorded to a 1/C Midshipmen and is based off of the recipient's military aptitude, scholarship, and physical readiness. An officer's sword is also presented along with the award, which is provided by Dr. Curtis Barrett, CAPT USN (ret.) and his son Gary.

MIDN 1/C Michael Massel

Midshipmen Massel is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Park Tudor in the top of his class. He matriculated to Purdue University in 2007 with an NROTC scholarship and was a professional flight major. Midshipmen Massel has consistently been a leader to the other Midshipmen holding many different leadership positions within the Battalion including Charlie Company Chief, Current Operations Officer, and Squad Leader. Midshipmen Massel also took the lead in the creation of a new class ring exclusively for the members of Purdue's ROTC programs, a first in the history of Purdue University. Midshipmen Massel was the Battalion commanding officer for the Spring 2011 semester. Following graduation and commissioning he will attend Navy flight training in Pensacola, Florida.

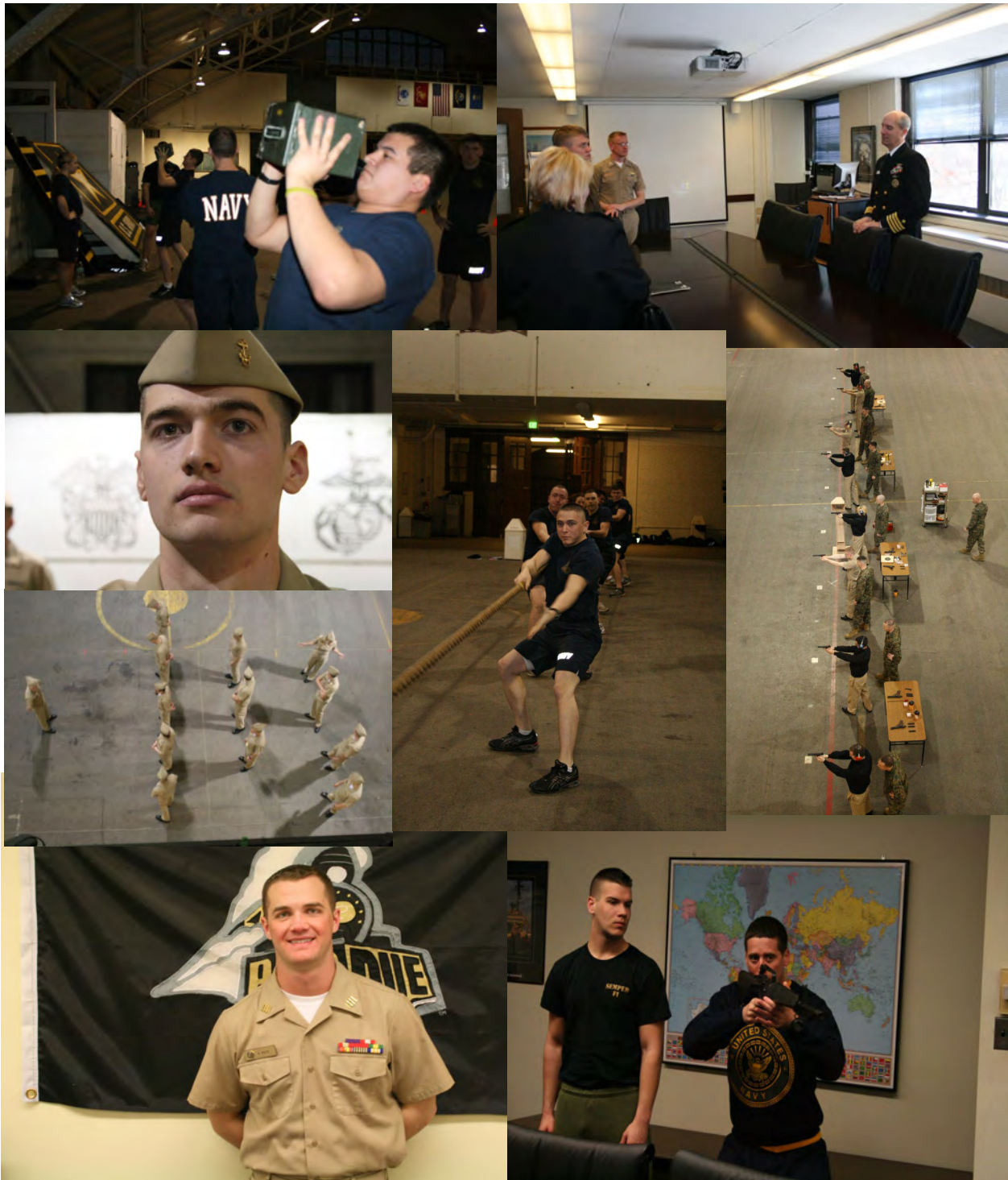


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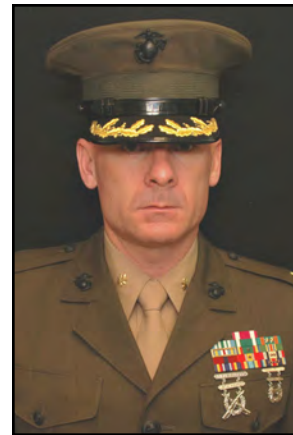
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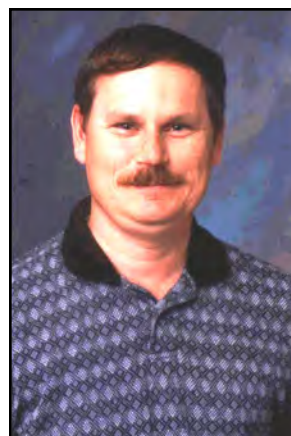
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Boiler Up!

