



# The University of Memphis

## Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014

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## Just Another Day At The Office



To finish the year off strong, on 25 November 2014 The University of Memphis Naval ROTC held the Marine Officer Instructor Endurance Challenge and the Lieutenant Challenge.

The future Marine officers performed three rounds of intense functional fitness exercises with rubber rifles: planks, sprints, burpees, high and low crawls, squats, lunges, eight count body builders, and sprints. Each round was slightly different and the MECEPs and Marine options were

physically tested, but proved very capable of tackling the functional fitness elements to the MOIs Endurance Challenge. MIDN 1/C Grace won the first round, MIDN 4/C Johnston won the second round and MIDN 2/C Brewster won the third round by a nose over MIDN 1/C Ryan. “It was motivating to get out the rubber rifles crawl around in the mud” MIDN 3/C Guthrie. The ultimate winner of the MOI Endurance Challenge was MIDN 1/C Ryan, followed by MIDN 2/C Brewster and MIDN 1/C Sampson.

The LT challenge for the Navy midshipman started off with a basketball game “Knockout” for LT Whitley to select the best basketball team to compete with LT Mayeux. MIDN 4/C Posey won Knockout and proved to be a valuable resource in LT Whitley’s victory. “I had a lot of fun playing knockout, and it was good to prove that even a wrestler can still win in basketball sometimes” MIDN 4/C Posey.

LT Whitley’s team won the basketball game with the midshipman he selected, as a result, those rooting for LT Mayeux’s team had to pay for the loss with push ups and burpees.

“It pays to be a winner” is one of Major Perry’s favorite lines to motivate us at PT to compete with the midshipman to our left and right. One of the many motivational PT sessions we had this year was the Super Squad competition. It consisted of bunny hops, one-foot hops, buddy drags, a shoe find, and sprints. “It was definitely a great way to end a great semester” MIDN 3/C Levin.

Hooyah Navy! Ooh Rah Marines!

Very Respectfully,  
Kristy Levin  
MIDN 3/C, USNR



## Motivational PT



# Professor of Naval Science



Greetings to The University of Memphis Naval ROTC and our family and friends! With the fall semester complete, I am pleased to report that our midshipmen performed exceptionally well in all areas. I am very proud of their success and the current semester is already off to a great start as well.



This year has certainly seemed to fly by. It started with our Freshman Orientation, where we welcomed seventeen new midshipmen to our ranks. It has been incredible to see the transition these incoming freshmen have made, from recent high school graduates to fully engaged, active unit members.

As the fall semester got into gear, our midshipmen were involved in several professional development endeavors. They were extremely active in the community, volunteering over 800 hours to various community projects. A highlight of their efforts was the memorial 5k for Lance Corporal Creager, a local Marine killed in Iraq. The benefits of these efforts are far reaching, not just to the community, but to the MIDN themselves. As they continue to grow as future leaders and citizens, I'm sure these experiences of helping others will benefit them throughout their lives.

We have also completed one of our strongest semesters academically. Overall, our unit wide GPA increased from 3.09 to 3.23, which is a testament to the strong academic performance of our students. Our 2/C MIDN boasted an outstanding 3.61 GPA, the highest in Memphis NROTC history.

While past success is no guarantee of future performance, I urge all of our students to continue to work hard academically. No matter what they go on to do in the Navy & Marine Corps, their job will only be made easier by having a strong academic background.

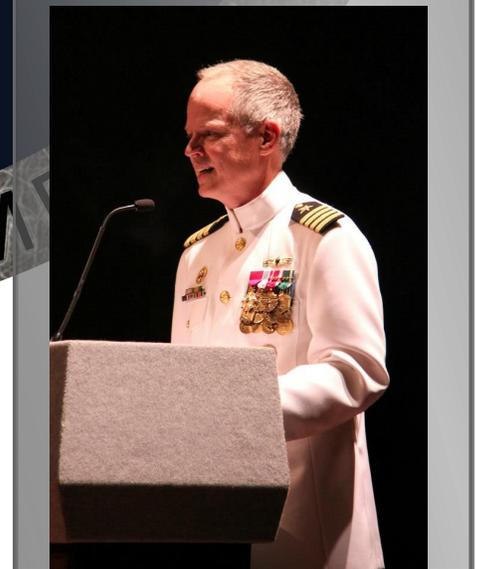
While it has long been known to me that we have an outstanding staff, our unit was recently recognized by Naval Service Training Command as being one of the best in our country following a very extensive inspection that occurs eve-



ry four years. Bravo Zulu to all of our outstanding staff for their hard work and dedication.

I couldn't be more optimistic and excited for the future here at Memphis. It is truly a fantastic unit and I am very proud of everything they do. Thank you for everything you do whether you are a student, parent, alumni, staff, or friend of NROTC Memphis. Fair winds and Following Seas!

Bradley C. Mai  
 Captain, USN  
 Professor of Naval Science





## Executive Officer's Corner

What a fast and furious fall semester for the Memphis NROTC Unit. Having just checked aboard, I couldn't be more pleased with the professionalism and outstanding performance from the staff and Midshipmen. No doubt, at testament to my predecessor, CDR Steve Skretkowicz's commitment to this outstanding organization – thanks Shrek!

The Fall of 2014, started with a bang. 16 eager, motivated students reported for our annual freshman orientation. For eight days, they were put through the ringer with intense training, classroom instruction and team building exercises. The newest members to this unit shined and show exceptional promise for our future. It is important to note that this is the first class in recent history to have graduated intact and not have anyone drop on request (commonly referred to as DOR). Having survived Staff Sergeant Shaw's week-long "conditioning", these new graduates have raised the bar and are now a part of an elite organization whose values and principles are unmatched.

There were quite a few accomplishments coming out of this past semester. First and foremost, we are excited to welcome aboard Rhodes College to our NROTC alliance. This prestigious institution will soon enroll their students into the program

expanding the influence of the Mid-South consortium to four high profile academic institutions – The University of Memphis, University of Mississippi, Christian Brothers University and now, Rhodes College.

Another major milestone achieved is the recent selection of our MOI to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Major Tracy Perry's well deserved promotion will open new doors of opportunities and further his already successful career. Bravo Zulu Major!

MIDN Grace did a remarkable job as the Company Commander. We couldn't be more proud of his achievements and how he elevated the level of performance of Golf Company. MIDN Winters has some big shoes to fill as the new Company Commander for the Spring of 2015, but we have every expectation that he will continue this high level of performance. Other notable achievements include scholarships awarded to three well deserving students. This past semester, MIDNs Parker, Brewster and Lootens were



awarded NROTC scholarships and their associated benefits. Congratulations to them in accomplishing this extremely competitive milestone.

As we look forward to the new semester, I'd like to welcome two additions to our staff. The new Junior and Senior Advisor is LT Eric Larson who comes to us

from the fleet serving aboard the USS Nebraska (SSBN-739). Also, our new Supply Tech and Administrative Assistant is Mrs. Renee Bradberry. Having previously worked with the consortium, we were very fortunate to regain her talents. Welcome back Ren!

As we ring in the new year, Spring 2015 will bring a new era of leadership. First, we anticipate commissioning eleven bright and zealous MIDN and MECEPs into the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. However, we will sadly say farewell to our Skipper and PNS, CAPT Bradley Mai. This will be a tough loss as his leadership, vision and genuine care for our future leaders is not something you see every day. We will also say fair winds and following seas to Maj Tracy Perry and LT Mike Whitely. No doubt their exceptional mentoring and contributions in creating top-quality Ensigns and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants will be sorely missed.

In closing, I couldn't be more proud of Golf Company's performance during the fall of 2014 and look forward to continuing to build on our already exceptional tradition. I can't begin to adequately express my heartfelt appreciation to the NROTC staff, U of M faculty, community sponsors and Tiger alumni who lend us their generous support. Without your help, we would not be able to provide the unparalleled level of training for which the Memphis NROTC unit is known for. I am confident that with your continued support, we will be able to successfully complete our mission of developing our future military leaders morally, mentally, and physically. Thank you!

Adrian "Yo" Lozano  
Commander, USN  
Executive Officer  
NROTC, Mid-South Region



# Marine Officer Instructor



It's hard to believe that another fall semester has come and gone. I am extremely proud of our Naval ROTC unit and the many accomplishments our Midshipmen and MECEPs had during a extremely challenging academic semester. The company GPA returned to a reasonable high average due to the diligence and hard work of the unit and staff.

The Midshipmen and MECEPs of The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University are determined and committed to achieving their ultimate goal—a commission in the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

Over the course of this semester, I have continuously discussed the three pillars

which I believe are vital to our success: academics (our number one priority), physical fitness, and professional development. Our students have embraced this philosophy and through their actions are building a strong foundation for the future of this unit. Average GPA increased from 3.09 in the spring 2014 to 3.23 in the fall 2014; unfortunately physical readiness/physical fitness test scores trended downward.

Through guided leadership discussions and professional reading our Midshipmen are gaining valuable insight into what is expected of future Naval leaders. Focus on the future and strive for greatness: 4.0 GPA, Perfect PRT/PFT score, and continue to develop your leadership style.

I encourage all of you to read *"The Commandants Planning Guidance 2015"* by General Dunford. He is shaping the future of the Marine Corps "to remain true to enduring principles as we innovate and adapt for the future."

I challenge the Midshipmen and MECEPs to continue building on what we have achieved during the fall semester and make this Naval ROTC unit even better.

I would like to thank the student company leadership for a job well done!

Fair winds and following seas to those who have graduated and received their commissions; I hope that what they have learned here at The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit serves them well as they take on the challenges that a Naval Officer will encounter in the Fleet.

I look forward to the new challenges during the upcoming spring semester.

Semper Fidelis!

Tracy A. Perry  
Major, USMC  
Marine Officer Instructor  
NROTC, The University of Memphis





# 1/C and 2/C Advisor

Hello parents, friends, and midshipmen of NROTC Mid-South Region, The University of Memphis! I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the exciting things that our amazing and talented midshipmen accomplished over this past semester!

The Fall 2014 semester started off with a freshman orientation in which we received our newest class of midshipmen. Orientation for these young men and woman consisted of eight days of indoctrination into the customs and courtesies of the Navy and Marine Corps and also helped show what is expected of them in the coming weeks and months of the new semester. This is an extremely demanding program, and although some have dropped the NROTC program due to the challenges of balancing it with academics, I am proud that many have decided to continue pursuing their commissions.

As a result of their perseverance, our midshipmen have shown a marked improvement and an unquench-

able drive to succeed. These are invaluable skills that they will utilize their entire lives. I am excited to see the continued progress they make this upcoming semester.

One of the most important things I emphasize to my students is to focus on academics. If a midshipman does not succeed academically, he or she cannot commission. Furthermore, performing well in academics opens doors to the many opportunities offered by the Navy and is an im-



portant factor for determining service assignment. Frankly stated, poor academic performance will close doors and lead to fewer options when senior year comes around.

On the subject of academics, I would like to mention that I have the privilege of being in charge of service assignments for the midshipmen when they become seniors. This is where I submit packages for them to become a Submarine Officer, Surface Warfare Officer, Naval Aviator, Naval Flight Officer, Naval Special Warfare Officer, or Navy Nurse Officer. Each midshipman lists their desired career choices in order of preference, and several weeks later the de-

terminations are revealed. All three of this semester's commissioned seniors received their first choice for service assignment and this can be directly traced back to their academics performance.

As we close out the spring semester, I urge all of our midshipmen to continue to do their best in all aspects of this NROTC program. Remember, you will soon be the war-fighting leaders of the strongest and most technologically-advanced Navy the world has ever seen. This requires excellence in academics, military performance, and physical fitness: areas that I am confident each midshipman is capable of excelling in. I am privileged to play a large role in the development of our nation's future leaders, and I look forward to guiding each of you out to the fleet!

Christopher D. Whitley  
Lieutenant, USN  
1C & 2/C Advisor  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



## 3/C and 4/C Advisor



Fall 2014 was an extremely important semester for the professional development of the 3/C and 4/C Midshipmen; it was a pleasure to serve as their advisor and I'm happy to be here at The University of Memphis.

The second semester of the 2014-2015 academic year continues to see improvement and resolve among our midshipmen as they acquire the skills and knowledge needed to be competent Naval and Marine Corp officers! The freshmen in our Seapower class are learning about Navy and Marine Corps history and are applying this knowledge to current events as they unfold today. Not to be outdone, our sophomores are getting hands on experience with shipboard operations and seamanship. Meanwhile, our juniors and seniors are completing their final academic requirements, refining their leadership skills, and preparing for that final push towards graduation and commissioning.

This semester will be the last chance many of our sophomores will have to earn a scholarship and be retained in this program. In addition, our freshmen college programmers are gearing for their first chance to earn a sideload scholarship. I am excited about submitting as many freshmen and sophomores as possible this spring for scholarships and

wish them all the best of luck during this upcoming and challenging academic school semester. I have been extremely impressed with the determination and hard work that our midshipmen have displayed since last semester. It has been a pleasure to witness their enthusiasm and perseverance as they continuously approach and overcome each obstacle. At every level, all our students are beginning to understand just what it means to be a leader and exceed the standards and requirements laid out before them and continue to pave the way for the next arrival of potential Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Our staff continuously preaches the importance of academic excellence, the hallmark of success in our program. Through intense physical training and continued professional development, each student pushes themselves and their shipmates to reach their ultimate goal.

The mark of a successful military unit is the shared cohesion from top to bottom of the chain of command. Golf Company continues to grow and excel despite the consistent turnover by our student leadership and the large influx of freshmen students. This constant state of flux will reinforce their leadership skills as they prepare for increasingly dynamic situations and environments once they reach the Fleet. I have been extremely impressed with the seamless transition that lower ranking students demonstrate as they fill more demanding leadership roles left behind by rising seniors eager to step in and fill the company leadership void left by our newly commissioned officers. The concepts of time management, responsibility, accountability, and self-sacrifice have been emphasized and it will be interesting to see how these

emerging leaders adapt both individually and as a group. As they continue in our program, they will also have ample opportunity to display their leadership abilities and leave their mark upon future classes at University of Memphis.

In addition to being the 3rd/4th class advisor, I am also the recruiting officer and have met with many interested students, families, and various members of the Memphis community over the last several months. I appreciate their interest and look forward to receiving these prospective students on Navy or Marine Corp Scholarship or as a College Programmer challenging themselves to select for a scholarship in the near future.

In conclusion, I look forward to another successful and fulfilling academic year and am proud to be part of the professional development of our future leaders and warfighters.

Michael P. Mayeux  
Lieutenant, USN  
3/C & 4/C Advisor  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



# Assistant Marine Officer Instructor



the biggest one midshipmen have to constantly management their time wisely. Unlike a military college or university where everything is built into the schedule a Naval ROTC at a regular university does not have that opportunity. Midshipmen have to learn how to manage academics and their Naval ROTC commitments. It takes discipline in order to do what these midshipmen do on a daily basis. They have shown me with teamwork and hard work combine you can overcome anything. The same drive and determination they have now need to continue throughout their whole career in the military.

sure the lonely moments when an important decision falls on your shoulder. You have to be able to speak your mind and act decisively knowing that you can withstand the consequences. Drive and tenacity the ability to not stop until you have found a solution to the problem.

There is about to be a change in the unit amongst the staff there will be a new Commanding Officer (CO), Marine Officer Instructor (MOI), and Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI). The unit also has a new Executive Officer (XO) and 1st and 2nd Advisor. Even though the command is changing the mission will still be the same develop, mentor, and mold the future officers of the Navy and Marine Corps.

As the AMOI I have learned a lot from this duty that will add value to my leadership. Time management being

There are a few other traits I think will help them be successful as they build on their military career. The first one would be self-confidence you have to be able to listen to your own inner voice and en-



Ambition is the desire to achieve something visible and noteworthy. The most important to me is having an appetite for learning having the eagerness to take on new challenges. Leaders who seek out new experiences and learn from them will build their know-hows faster than those who don't. Semper Fi and I look forward to servicing with you in the future.

Quinton A. Shaw  
Staff Sergeant, USMC  
Assistant Marine Officer Instructor

# Student Company Commander

First of all, I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to lead Golf Company as Company Commander. While this is a great honor, it is also a great responsibility. Fortunately, the previous leaders have left the NROTC at the University of Memphis in a great position through their dedication, a tradition I hope to continue.

As this new semester begins, we have just welcomed a new group of Midshipmen to the unit who are eager to contribute to making this unit better as well as prepare themselves to be officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Most important for them is the example set by returning Midshipmen. The value of a proper example cannot be overstated no matter the environment. I expect all upper-classmen to use the experience they have gained over their two or three years to help keep the unit heading in a positive direction. Although we may make mistakes from time to time, these aberrations can be used to teach ourselves and younger Midshipmen so that they are not repeated. It has been said that a smart man learns from his mistakes, but a wise man learns from others' mistakes. I find this to be absolutely true and something that everyone should keep in mind as they train for a career in the military as well as after their service.

Leaders should strive to not only improve themselves, but also improve those that they lead. Only with a

distinguished level of zeal, dedication, and care for others can this be achieved. I look forward to yet another outstanding semester and its opportunity to mature as a leader and as a person.

Very Respectfully,

Parker Grace  
MIDN 1/C, USMC



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# New Student Orientation

The New Student Orientation this year acquired 16 new motivated midshipmen. This was the second year that it took place on campus of The University of Memphis. New Student Orientation kicked off bright and early on Saturday morning. That morning the midshipmen were getting accustomed to NROTC life by having a physical fitness test. The Orientation staff awaited the new students at The University of Memphis NROTC unit and helped motivate the new freshman on their PT test. After the PT test the students went to hygiene to get ready for the long day. The command staff then introduced themselves and wished the new students their best. Sunday morning started off with the daily routine of physical training under the

direction of the student staff. After the physical training, students were allowed to attend religious services if they desired. The afternoon started off with drill, which is designed to instill discipline and team building skills among the midshipmen so that they bond together. Through the week, the students spent many hours in the classroom covering many topics that are vital to the Navy. Some of the briefs the midshipmen received consisted of hazing, military customs and courtesies, drug and alcohol abuse, and also leadership discussions. The student's favorite classes were the static weapon displays at the Marine Corps Reserve Unit and the sail training at Sardis Lake, Mississippi. The midshipmen got to have hands on

training with the static weapons, which consisted of M16's, M9's, and M240's. Sailing was taught on campus and the next day the new students went to Sardis Lake in Mississippi. The students were taught basic sailing maneuvers and also what to do in case of flipping the boat over. New student Orientation ended the following Saturday morning. Parents returned to a group of changed, disciplined individuals who were excited and eager to start a career in the naval service. After the new students were reunited with their parents, there was a cookout at Autobahn Park.

Very Respectfully,  
Trey Wiese  
MIDN 3/C, USNR



# Golf Company Bowling

As soon as the new freshman Midshipman all came out of New Student Orientation, they were immersed in their new lives as college students. We struggled to find our classes, and learned that there was a lot more to being a college student than we thought. After an exhausting week of learning how to adapt to the college life and getting lost (a lot) on campus, the upper class Midshipman took all the freshman to go bowling. Little did they know, the freshman could actually give them a run for their money. Some struggled at first to figure out exactly how to get the ball to stay out of the gutter, but eventually all the Midshipman were laughing and joking around. Some of the Midshipman would jump into the freshman lanes or vice versa to get the upper hand, and then the opposing team would then retaliate. We played well over two hours, and I'm sure we lost track of who was winning after that.

As we were doing a horrible job of actually hitting the pins, the Midshipman tried to teach the others how to

bowl. Not only did the upper class Midshipman teach the freshman tips on how to roll the ball a certain way to get that perfect strike, they also taught us how to juggle our mandatory study hours, physical fitness, and our classes. They told us what teachers to avoid, and what classes we absolutely had to have and those we could put off. This gave the freshman not only the confidence to survive their first year in college, but also people they could count on should they ever need help. After we were all tired of the gutter balls and the few and far between exclamations of joy over a strike, we headed back to campus to emerge ourselves back into our classes and finish our loads of homework. Overall, this was a good chance for everyone in the unit to enjoy themselves and it was a lot of fun.

As my first experience at a moral event (other than in New Student Orientation), I realized that NROTC wasn't going to be like NSO all the time. The upper class Midshipman weren't the people who were up and in your face,

rigid motivators anymore. I finally was able to relax and joke around with the upper class Midshipman and learn more about who they were. I feel like this was a great opportunity for the unit to bond and that our bowling trip was perfectly planned at the right time. As an incoming freshman this year, I believe that this should be a reoccurring event for years to come.

Very Respectfully,

Brittany Bowers  
MIDN 4/C, USNR

# SWOtivation

The 1/C SWO cruise is a highly anticipated adventure in any aspiring SWO's life. This summer cruise teaches you the other half of Naval Operations aboard a US Naval surface ship. This cruise is very different from the 2/C cruise, where you learn what it is like on the enlisted side of the ship, by shadowing an officer to learn the actual duties you will be performing as a Surface Warfare Officer. On my 1/C cruise I was out at sea on the USS Chafee (DDG 90). The USS Chafee is home ported in Pearl

Harbor Hawaii, yes you heard right I went to Hawaii for my awesomely SWOtivating cruise. On my cruise I spent approximately a week out at sea doing naval operations. Some of the operations were an UNREP (Underway Replenishment), RHIB extraction/deployment, firefighting procedures, conning the ship, and much more. I was able to get a great understanding of how the officer climate is supposed to be aboard a surface vessel, and also how important it is to be an excellent SWO. After we

returned from our time at sea, we were able to spend several days discovering parts of Hawaii. Overall, the Midshipman 1/C SWO cruise is a very rewarding experience for any young aspiring SWO, and I personally enjoyed it a great deal.

Very Respectfully,

Cody Silvers  
MIDN 1/C, USNR

# Officer Candidate School

Officer Candidates School for the Marine Corps is held in Quantico, VA. Unlike basic training for any enlisted branch of the military, any Marine who has ever had the desire to become an officer must travel to Quantico, VA because it is the only location nationwide. For NROTC students, OCS lasts six weeks. From July 6, 2014 until August 16, 2014 I attended OCS.

The very first week of OCS is called receiving week. The first week is meant to be a culture shock in which the Sergeant Instructors have the opportunity to portray the first impressions of OCS. Also, the first week of OCS is when the majority of the candidates who will end up getting dropped will actually be sent home. Each platoon will release an average of five candidates due to medical liabilities.

The second through the fifth weeks are always a blur to each of the candidates. During that time at OCS there is a plethora of the amount of evaluation tests. The tests range from a wide variety. There are a combination of academic, physical and leadership evaluations. If a candidate fails three events, then he or she will be sent home. If a candidate receives an overall grade of less than an 80 percent in one or more of the categories, again there is a strong possibility that he or she will be released from Officer Candidates School. Before any decision to release a candidate will be made, the candidate will make an appearance in front of the battalion commander to await his verdict.

There are several events at

OCS that do stand out from among the faded memories. The most fun event was the zip line exercise. The zip line experience was one that got the attention of every candidate. After locking yourself in, the sergeant instructors verify the safety. Each individual will travel close to 100 yards. Other events that are memorable include the obstacle courses, endurance course, and confidence and Tarzan course. The obstacle courses were a lot of fun because it is something that is a nice change up. Many of the men and women had to redo several of the obstacles again and again because of the difficulty.

The very last week is when the culminating event occurs. The Platoon Commander decides upon a task for the platoon to complete in order to receive their Eagle, Globe and Anchor. The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor represents that the candidate has proven himself worthy of the title as not only a United States Marine, but also as a leader of

marines.

Finally, Officer Candidates School is wrapped up with a Medal of Honor run and a moto run. The Medal of Honor run is an amazing experience. The platoon runs through the woods on a trail run for four miles, but sporadically there are 15 Medal of Honor citations posted that a candidate has to read. After reading each citation the platoon screams out a loud "kill" at the top of their voice and then completes ten pushups. The next day the slow paced five mile moto run is ran with cadence as a platoon. OCS is then complete. All that is left is graduation. Upon graduation the new brothers and sisters separate to share their experiences with the world and continue the strive for excellence.

Very Respectfully,

Jake Ryan  
MIDN 1/C, USNR



# 1st Class Submarine Cruise

As a First Class Midshipman, I had the opportunity to embark on a fast attack submarine as my senior cruise. This was my third sortie on a United States submarine; however, it was my first time on the Atlantic and my first time on a Virginia Class vessel. My trip was originally scheduled to originate from Groton, Connecticut onboard the USS Providence, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the trip was altered to a trip onboard the USS New Mexico. This allowed for several opportunities to witness training drills and communicate with the crew about their previous deployment. The crew of the USS New Mexico had recently undergone ICEX or Ice Exercises. ICEX includes various training exercises that pertain to navigation in and around the Arctic Circle. The crew of the USS New Mexico was allowed to participate in Blue Nose ceremonies (a ceremony associated with crossing the Arctic Circle) as well as surfacing through the ice caps. Witnessing the various drill exercises onboard demonstrated the incredibly high standards that the command expected from its crew. Drills were highly scrutinized even though the crew had a record of repeatedly surpassing the status quo.

An interesting detail of the trip was how my experience from the Atlantic Ocean differed from the Pacific. The continental shelf of the Atlantic did not allow for immediate submergence upon leaving port. This made for a much rockier ride near the coast as well as a more interesting maneuvering watch. The ship was on

high alert for several hours as we traversed to a safe location to submerge. Our outbound trip even including a close call with small civilian craft that were all but curious of our man overboard drills. Luckily we were able to keep the passersby and ourselves safe as we continued our training exercises. This situation made it very apparent of the various encounters that can occur while underway.

Whilst in Groton I was also able to tour the USS Nautilus museum. The USS Nautilus was the world's first nuclear powered submarine. It was interesting to see the incredible amount of similarities and differences that the vessel had in comparison to modern submarines. The Nautilus boasted many innovations that influenced the design of subsequent submarines. Some advances were so crucial to modern sub design that the engine room requires special clearance to access to this date. My group was also granted special access to the museum vault to view various awards and memorabilia that pertained to the US submarine community. Museum historians allowed us to browse through the Captains' log books from various submarines that had served during WWII, along with Medals of



Honor of various submariners including that of Commander Bennett Fluckey. The stories of these individuals demonstrated the honor and prowess that accompanies being a submariner.

The officers as well as the enlisted were very accommodating. Morale on the boat was high and pride from completion of the recent exercises was very apparent. It was particularly interesting to witness how relaxed the enlisted were around their subordinates. Enlisted personnel openly conversed with the commanding officer and the executive officer whilst maintaining an attitude of respect. The trip greatly increased my interest in the submarine community.

Very Respectfully,

Ethan Gray

MIDN 1/C, USNR

# CORTRAMID WEST 2014

On 21MAY2014, over 400 NROTC new third class midshipmen arrived in San Diego, Calif. For summer training denoted as CORTRAMID West. During this month of training, midshipmen from across the country were exposed to the various service communities which they have available to them upon graduation from Navy or Marine Corps ROTC. This program is designed not only to provide more information and experience in the various service communities, but gives each community a chance to advocate themselves in order to hopefully gain new Ensigns or 2nd lieutenants within the next four years.

These four weeks consisted of surface, submarine, aviation and marine weeks. Each of the service communities pulled out all of the stops to show these midshipmen a good time. For surface week, tours were given of new Littoral Combat Ships, virtual navigation systems as well as a guided missile destroyer. Submarine week showed off their underwater assets to midshipmen by offering an overnight stay on either a SSBN or SSN as well as a wet trainer, and tug boat rides. Submarine week definitely offered the best food, which all mids agreed on, and even Marine week proudly displayed a week of toned down camp. Midshipmen

stayed in military barracks, ate in the chow hall, and had the opportunity to shoot almost every weapon the Marine Corps had to offer and even ride in the new Osprey. Not to mention the hikes, or humps.

Aviation week gave midshipmen the chance to fly in helicopters, T-34 training jets, and tour various flight squadrons. The week began with swim qualifications and ended with tours next to F-18 fighter jets. Throughout all of these weeks, midshipmen were given the opportunity to meet with and talk to both enlisted members and officers of each community. This time spent with real people doing real work inside of the navy or Marine Corps, allowed midshipmen to get a better, more insightful gauge of what being in these communities is actually like. Knowing more about the daily life, and routines of various service communities can have large impacts on what midshipmen decide to choose. This experience plays a large role in many midshipmen changing their ideas of what they would like to do upon graduation.

Each week was followed with some sort of fun event such as a BBQ, or

cookout. Some of the more civilian experiences related to CORTRAMID included trips to Sea World's Aquatica, San Diego Zoo, and of course, the beach. The city of San Diego has much to offer such as the Gaslamp District, exciting downtown, and tons of delicious Mexican food. Everyone who attended CORTRAMID West returned with many exciting stories to share with friends and family, along with memories and new friends that will last a lifetime.

Very Respectfully,

Kimberly King  
MIDN 3/C, USNR



# Our Summer Cruise Experiences



# SEA SERVICES BALL 2014



This year the University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps was able to celebrate the birthdays of the United States Navy and the Marine Corps at Clark Tower. The night kicked off with cocktail hour then moved on to the ceremony and finished off with dinner and dancing. Joining us at the ceremony was a Brigadier General in the United States Marine Corps. During cocktail hour he made his way around talking to the midshipmen about what they wanted to do and he even shared some of his own experiences. To add our own little twist on the ball each fire team had to create their own centerpiece which were judged to see which one is the best. The centerpieces quickly became the center of conversations as people arrived at the venue. They ranged from 2-D, 3-D, and even edible arrangements. Once everyone had arrived the ceremony began with a sword detail for the arrival of the officers and honored guests followed by the color guard. After that the youngest and oldest sailor and marine were chosen to take a bite of the traditional birthday cake. After the cake, the guest of honor began to speak. The guest of honor for the evening was Captain Jablon. Throughout his career in the Navy, he served as a Submarine Officer. Captain Jablon spoke about his college career as he put himself back in our shoes. His speech motivated the midshipmen to continue pushing through college because in the end the reward is worth it. After the guest speaker and the ceremonies we had dinner, which was buffet style, and then toasting to give tribute to our chain of command, respective services, and also the other branches as well. After dinner and the toasts finished, DJ J Boogie kicked off the music and dancing for the evening. With the music playing and the midshipmen dancing, we definitely ended the evening on a good note.

Very Respectfully,

James Coronado  
MIDN 3/C, USNR

# LCpl Creager 5K



The 2014 Lance Corporal Creager Memorial 5K was a continuation of its success over the past years. The event, held on Saturday, 8 November at the N-82 Gym and Fitness Complex in Millington, Tennessee, attracted participants ranging from family members of Tim to weekend warriors looking for a fall 5K in the area. Over 100 runners participated in the event this year.

New for this year was the addition of a 10 by 14 foot American flag draped over the starting line, thanks to the aid of the ladder truck of Millington Fire Department. Once registration opened at 7 o'clock in the morning, participants began to file in gradually to the gym. Continental breakfast was served to the earliest arrivals. As the majority of race participants registered, the silent auction opened for bidding. The silent auction contained items ranging all the way from mobile phone chargers to a limited edition pearl necklace. The items donated for silent auction were made possible by Memphis area small businesses.

In preparation for the race, the Midshipmen of the Naval ROTC distributed flyers all over the greater Memphis and Millington area to garner support. Over 3,000 flyers were distributed to area businesses, family contacts, and public advertising spaces in order to get the word out about the race. Being in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the event is familiar with many from the Millington area; however, new races emerge annually in Memphis, which emphasizes the need to promote events with a purpose, such as the Creager 5K. A portion of the proceeds from the event were donated to the Wounded Warrior Project, and another portion was spent to engrave Tim Creager's name on a brick at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. A certificate of registration was provided to Kay Creager, Tim's mother, at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

The event continues to grow every year, partially given the fact that the event is for such a great cause. Another large contributing factor to the event's success is the hard work put in by each and every midshipman in the event's planning, preparation, and execution. Their efforts keep the spirit of Tim alive by putting on this event so that all who participate may know and remember the true sacrifices made to protect the freedoms of our great nation.

Very Respectfully,

Isaac Parrish  
MIDN 1/C, USNR

# More LCpl Creager 5K Pictures



# Commander's Cup 2014

As the winter season approaches, Navy midshipmen find themselves deeper and deeper into the Commander's Cup. So far events have included Ultimate Frisbee and flag football v. Air Force and Army, both of which were morale booster for the competing branches. Pride, bragging rights, and the title of the Champion of the Commander's Cup were on the line here. The first event was ultimate Frisbee, squaring off was Navy and Air Force. Air Force was known to play well. Navy took an "L" on that one, but that didn't mean we were out of the running for the title. The next week was Navy vs. Army. Once again Navy came up short, but we had to continue to compete. Sometime later came the football game, and Navy vs. Air Force was up once more.

Both sides fought for the "W," but Air Force walked away with it. Key players from Navy were MIDN 1/C Ingo Bretschneider, MIDN 3/C James Coronado, and MIDN 3/C Sam Lootens. The next was Navy vs. Army, and Navy seemed to be running the field, effortlessly making the defense miss tackles and running exactly what they wanted to. Navy's flaw though was that we got relaxed, we got comfortable with the scoreboard we gradually let Army climb out of the hole they were in. Both Army and Navy made good plays, and Navy platoon was led by excellent passing, runs, and game changing catches. The game was coming down to the wire and only a single score would decide who took home the victory Army was ahead, and with a failed 2pt attempt by Navy,

Army took it. Both branches lined up and shook hands to remind us that they're all just games. No matter how competitive they get. Until the Cup continues the branches will be training their players, each hungry for the title of Champion.

Very Respectfully,

Eric Jones

MIDN 3/C, USNR

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# Super Squad Competition Fall 2014

All four squads marched hurriedly to the Tiger Jungle for an inside drill competition. Each respective squad mustered into order as the squad leaders received last minute instruction for sling and unsling arms. Once the squad leaders were released to their squads by Staff Sergeant First Squad was called into a separate room for inspection. Each midshipman's anxiousness to complete the inspection was heavy as Midshipman Huetson and Grace question a select few squad members.

The Marine Platoon led, followed by First Squad. First Squad's inspection finished and they were moved to the gym for the drill competition. Each midshipman found their place by order and awaited orders. The first order came, "Present, arms!" with only a single mistake being made, but promptly fixed by Squad Leader Wiese. Several orders were given and several more mis-

takes were obviously made by the same Midshipman, which proved detrimental in the squads overall score.

Following First Squad's rocky performance, Second Squad shuffled into the gym. Second Squad performed as best they could to no better a performance than First Squad. Finally, Third Squad was called in for the final inspection and so were both previous squads to watch the final moments of judgment. Major Perry and Staff Sergeant judged openly on the mistakes made for all squads and closely watched as the squad finished their final order. Major Perry called all squads to himself, and declared that the lack of practice was evident.

Major Perry gave many pointers of advice to each squad and squad leader, along with his constructive criticism and executive decision to hold more drill practice times for the Spring semester. Along

with the inspection and drill competition a squad endurance meet was held, consisting of a 400 meter sprint, push-ups, and sit-ups. There was also a basketball court suicide circuit that consisted of sprints, hops, skips, and backwards running. Overall, each squad performed to its very best, and was evaluated as such.

Very Respectfully,

Stewart Clark

MIDN 4/C, USNR

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 The University of Memphis  
 USAA  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars

# Super Squad Fall 2014



# 2014 Hail & Farewell

On December 2, 2014 The University of Memphis NROTC had their Hail and Farewell at Central BBQ for the end of the 2014 Fall Semester. All the incoming 4/C Midshipman were being hailed while Midshipman Grace was being farewelled. The event started with all the 4/C Midshipman and Midshipman Grace telling their most embarrassing story followed with an embarrassing picture of that person. Following that, Major Perry surprised Golf Company with a calculus problem to solve. Midshipman Lavery was the winner of this challenge, congratulations. Next, there were a series of fun activities starting with the Oreos challenge where each Midshipman had to eat two Oreos from the tips of their nose without using their hands. Following that, was the toilet paper roll challenge where there was a team of three and whoever wrapped up two teammates up the fastest with one toilet paper roll won. And then the chubby bunny challenge was next, where each Midshipman had to stuff their mouth with marshmallows and say "chubby bunny". Narrowing down to the end with only a handful Midshipmen left, there was a tissue challenge to see who could empty out a box of tissues the fastest. The final activity with only Midshipman Grace and Midshipman Kingston left they had to shake out three rubber band balls trapped inside the box of tissues they emptied while it was stuck the lower part of their backs. Midshipman Grace with his outstanding skills managed to shake all three rubber band balls out without hesitation and won the event! Congratulations to Midshipman Grace. Next, the

winner of the MOI Challenge was announced and the winner of that was Midshipman Ryan, congratulations. Next announced was the winner of the Lieutenant Challenge and Midshipman Covey was the winner, congratulations. Following that, the winners of this semesters Mentor Mentee challenge was announced. Congratulations on Midshipman Lootens and Midshipman Clark on winning the Mentor Mentee Challenge. The Iron Mike Challenge winner was announced next, and Midshipman Ryan won, congratulations. The most improved Midshipman of the semester was announced and Midshipman Schuman was announced most improved, congratulations. Finally, the winner of the best PRT score was announced, and Midshipman Gargis was the winner, congratulations. A big congratulations to all the Midshipman who won any challenge this semester! As the Hail and Farewell was being wrapped up, Major Perry decided to challenge the Company with a challenge coin. Any midshipman that did not have their challenge coin was rewarded with push-ups with Major Perry. The Company enjoyed the delicious BBQ, embarrassing stories, and fun events as they ended their last event together for the successful Fall semester.

Very Respectfully,

Paul Posey

MIDN 4/C, USNR



# Midshipman of the Semester

Midshipman 4/C Nikolaus Schug

Hometown: Lynchburg TN

Major : Criminal Justice

GPA: 4.00

PFT: 271

CFT: 292

Desired Service Assignment: Ground, Marine Corps



# Alumni Interest Group

The Alumni Interest Group (AIG) is new to The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit. The AIG is looking for alumni who are interested in reconnecting with former classmates, helping to mentor current Midshipmen, financially supporting unit events, or providing their experience since receiving their commission. The AIG hopes to bring these individuals together in order to form a bond that will extend well after their years serving in the military have ended.

At the beginning of the semester the AIG began gathering contact information for all Navy and Marine Corps officers who graduated or commissioned from The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. The AIG is excited to continue with the next step of connecting with all of the shipmates from the past.

An AIG kick-off event is being looked at for the upcoming spring semester, with hopes of having numerous University of Memphis Naval ROTC alumni in attendance.

For more information on the AIG, please contact Major Tracy Perry at [taperry2@memphis.edu](mailto:taperry2@memphis.edu).

**Mission:** The AIG's mission is to promote the fellowship and welfare of The University of

Memphis and Christian Brothers University Naval ROTC alumni and current Naval ROTC students by providing transition assistance, mentoring, financial assistance, social events to all members, and to enhance the visibility of the United States Navy and Marine Corps team and its contributions to the United States.

**Transition Assistance:** Provide a network to link members together as they leave The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University to their first assignment, move between duty stations, exit the Naval Service, transfer from the active to reserve component, seek civilian employment, or choose to relocate.

**Mentoring:** Offer professional and personal insight to members by remaining available to Midshipmen or newly commissioned officers seeking information on various career paths, serving as a non-command representative to current military members wanting guidance, or advising members on available military and civilian career opportunities.

**Financial Assistance:** Generate revenue to benefit the AIG and Naval ROTC unit by contributing to scholarship funds or endowment accounts, assisting students with fundraising endeavors, attending alumni or student run fundraising events, or sponsoring awards and scholarships.

**Social Events:** Connect with The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers Univer-

sity Naval ROTC Alumni and current students by attending or sponsoring social events such as tailgates, football games, and reunion weekends and participating in Navy and Marine Corps traditional celebrations and events.

**Liaison:** Maintain a professional relationship with the Professor of Naval Science and the assigned support staff.

Bricks are available for all naval officers from The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. To make a donation, please use the "Make a Gift" link on our website or click the image.

