The University of Memphis
Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER
Fall 2015

Joint Force Rivalry

The Commanders’ Cup is an annual set of sporting events in which the Navy, Army, and Airforce ROTC units at the University of Memphis compete. The sports that have been and will be played for this 2015 to 2016 academic year are: Frisbee, football, basketball, dodgeball, swimming, soccer, and a field meet. The midshipmen lost both games of Frisbee to the Army and Airforce cadets. Football was a different story. Led by Midshipman 3rd Class Kingston, the midshipmen were able to defeat the Army cadets and the Airforce cadets. As a team, the midshipmen were able to make plays at the moment when they counted most, and force key turnovers. These games were not won by long passes, but by some traditional close in hard nose football. The linemen were slogging it out in the trenches giving ample time in the pocket to their quarterbacks, Midshipmen Coronado and Weise. The receivers had hands that would make Chad Ochocinco jealous, and moves that cut up the opposing defensive backfields. The Defense was just as tough, causing turnovers on down and intercepting the ball numerous times. Between both games only a handful of plays broke for long yardage, otherwise the line put too much pressure on the opposing quarterback to get off good long passes. The midshipmen are excited for the challenges that lie ahead in the Commanders’ Cup. They have an opportunity to take first and they will seize that opportunity.

Casey Guthrie
MIDN 2/C, USNR

An Exclusive Visit

On 4 September 2015, Admiral Michelle Howard, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO), made a visit to the University of Memphis campus to give us a brief on Cyber Warfare. Admiral Howard is a 1982 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and has commanded the USS Rushmore (LSD 47), making her the first African American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy. Admiral Howard began her brief on Cyber Warfare by explaining the four different dimensions of warfare. The first dimension of warfare is what is in front of you; for example, other ships. In the first dimension you only worry about what’s in front of you. The second dimension of warfare is what’s above you. Aircrafts can come in without any warning and put troops on the ground or fire missiles. In this dimension, we have to be aware of what’s in front of us and what’s above us. The third dimension of warfare is what’s below us. Here, submarines come into play. Submarines can stay underwater for weeks at a time, go places without detection, and can fire tomahawks while underwater. In the third dimension, we have to worry about what’s in front, above, and below us. Finally, Admiral Howard believes the fourth dimension of warfare is cyber warfare. This is critical in our day and age, because we can lead an attack in one country while all the way around the world. Admiral Howard goes on to explain that cyber warfare is already going on and that it is very hard to predict an attack. This means we have to take extra precautions to prepare ourselves and secure Secret and Top Secret information on ships and submarines. Cyber warfare can also consist of unmanned drones. These can be controlled by a computer and do not have a pilot on board. Cyber warfare is changing the way wars will be fought in the future and it will be hard to predict what will happen next.

In conclusion, it was a great, educational experience having the opportunity to hear, firsthand, from the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Many Sailors can go their whole career without seeing a four star Admiral, and I got to see her while only a 4/C Midshipman so I feel honored. Her brief gave me an insight to what the future of warfare may hold.

Gunner Kring
MIDN 4/C, USN
A Ball of a Time

On November 6, 2015, the University of Memphis Naval ROTC hosted its Sea Services Ball at the Sheraton Hotel on Main Street for the 240th birthday celebration of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. The night started out with a ceremonial sword detail lead by Midshipman 2/C Kristy Levin. Following that, led by MIDN 2/C Casey Guthrie, was the presentation of the national ensign, along with the respective flags of the Navy and Marine Corps. After the colors were presented and the Guest of Honor and Senior Members had joined the ceremony, MIDN and their dates were shown a message by the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, wishing everyone a Happy Birthday and congratulating everyone on a job well done. After that, the birthday cake was then presented, the first cut by the most senior member present—Captain Brian Guthrie—who then presented the first piece to the most junior member present—MIDN 4/C William Alton. The cake was then returned and all the MIDN listened as speeches were made by Commander Adrian Lozano, Captain Brian Goszowicz and Guest of Honor—Captain Joesph. After all the ceremonial pieces were completed, everyone present was treated to a 3 course meal, including a salad, pecan pie, and a choice of either grilled chicken breast or smoked salmon as the main course. Everyone laughed and joked as the meals were eaten, commenting on the handmade centerpiece done by the midshipman. Once the plates had been cleared, the DJ-Tyler Johns—started the party. Everyone had a blast as songs like the Cupid Shuffle, the Wobble, and the Cha Cha Slide were played, and we were all surprised as even Captain Micheal Givan decided to show off his “mad dancing skills” and ripped up the dance floor. The evening continued as people chatted and danced, stopping to take photographs with their dates on the lovely night. When the night had ended at 22:00, everyone quickly filed out as everyone was tired from a great night of dancing and enjoying each other’s company. Some afterwards went out for a night out on the town as we were close to Beale Street, and others retired for the night as we were all excited for the following day for a fantastic football game between the undefeated University of Memphis Tigers and the Naval Academy’s Midshipman.

Flying High

This year’s Wine Under Wings was held on 1 October at the Wilson Air Hanger. MIDN 3/C Schug and I had been chosen to receive the Navy League scholarship that was to be presented to us at the event. We arrived at the Hangar around 1730 in our dress whites and were greeted at the door by the sword arch consisting of our senior midshipman. Once inside, we began to take a look at all of the different helicopters and planes that were parked inside and outside of the hangar. They were also holding a silent auction that included items ranging from holiday gift baskets to Memphis Tiger football tickets, all to help raise money for the Navy League. MIDN Schug and I made our way around the hangar talking to various Naval personnel. However, by the end of the social hour, it seemed a bit disappointing that we had not encountered any fellow Marines during the hour. At that point we turned towards the buffet and spent the next half hour conversing with more of the guests. At 2100, the ceremony began with the color guard being done by the local Sea Cadets, and a variety of awards were then handed out. Midway through the ceremony, MIDN Schug and I were called to the stage to receive our awards, and the scholarship money that went along with it. This event provided a very unique opportunity to meet military members with year of experience, and it gave me a newfound respect for the Navy League and the amount of support that they provide for our unit and for military members in general.

Daniel Johnston
MIDN 3/C, USNR

Life On a Ship

This past summer, I went on a 2nd Class Surface Warfare Cruise, between 11MAY15 and 22MAY15. The cruise was out of San Diego, California and I was on the USS HIGGINS (DDG 76). The USS HIGGINS is a Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, that was commissioned in 1999. On the ship, there were eleven other midshipmen. Aboard the USS HIGGINS, we were able to experience the life style and jobs of the enlisted men and women during an underway on a ship. On this cruise, I was to job shadow the enlisted personnel on the ship, while also trying to learn as much as possible. For the first week, we did not get underway and I was assigned a “running mate”, who was an EM2 (electrician’s mate). I worked his normal job hours while we weren’t underway. I also stood watch with him on the first weekend. The days consisted of drills and exercises that we needed to get done before we went underway. I ate my meals with the enlisted sailors and also slept in the enlisted berthing. On most days, I was able to experience liberty around 1600. I was able to go out with some of the other midshipmen and travel around San Diego. After the first week, we went underway and the real learning experience began. While underway, I got to take the conn and drive the ship. I also got to participate in an underway replenishment and conduct training exercises and practice evasive maneuvers. I was able to practice shoot a pistol and the .50 cal machine gun at sea. During one of the last nights underway, I conned the ship during a man over board drill. Even though it was a training exercise, it was a very intense situation. With help from the CO, I was able to safely bring the ship up to the fake person in the water and rescue them. Overall, that cruise increased my desire and interest to want to be part of the surface warfare community. There is a high sense of comradery between the crew. Also, while on the ship, I was able to participate in many unique operations and mission in the Navy. That cruise helped me better understand the lifestyle of the enlisted sailors. I had a great time aboard the USS HIGGINS, and I strongly recommend a surface warfare cruise for anyone who has the opportunity.

Trey Wiese MIDN 2/C, USNR
On 19NOV15 the Memphis NROTC unit held our change of command ceremony, where the former platoon and company leadership hand over their responsibilities and positions to the new command for the coming semester. The Color Guard was led by MIDN 3/C Schumann, and the invocation was given by MIDN 1/C Jenkins. This semester we thanked and relieved MIDN 1/C Jenkins from the position of company commander and welcomed MIDN 1/C Johnson as our new company commander, as well as a new company Executive officer, MIDN 2/C Parker. This ushers in new leadership throughout our unit. MIDN 2/C Levin is now our Logistic Officer, MIDN 2/C Zink our Personnel Officer, and MIDN 2/C Guthrie now serves as the Company Gunnery Sergeant. Leading the Navy platoon you have MIDN 2/C Coronado as platoon commander, and MIDN 2/C Wiese as the platoon Sergeant. Leading the Marine platoon we have MIDN 1/C Brewster as platoon commander, and MIDN 3/C Schug as platoon Sergeant. We are confident that our new leadership will direct us in a way that prepares all of us to become better future officers, and lead us in an outstanding upcoming semester.

With this change of command we reflect on the past semester and see the triumphs and failures; so that we ensure to learn from our mistakes and continue our successful traditions. This ceremony symbolizes the end of the semester and as the semester closes and winter break approaches the 4/C of this year have now completed their first semester as part of the NROTC unit. Some learned that the military was not for them, but some continue as motivated as ever to become future Navy and Marine officers. They have shown us they possess the drive to continue through the program, and we are excited to have them as part of our unit.

At the end of most semesters, we have to wish some of our 1/C MIDN farewell. We know they will serve our Navy and Marine Corps well as well as representing the Memphis NROTC program. We wish those commissioning the best of luck and look forward to seeing their bright future. Hooyah!

Kazhiro Koga MIDN 3/C, USNR

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