



# The University of Memphis

## Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

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## 5K for Freedom!



The runners taking off from the starting line of the 5k for Freedom!

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual 5k for Freedom took place on March 30, 2013 in Arlington, Tennessee. While the day started early for The University of Memphis NROTC and the weather seemed bleak, nothing stopped the 5k from occurring. The 99 participants were anxious and eager to see how the day would unfold, and under the supervision of MIDN 1/C Wilson, the whole

unit efficiently and effectively set out to accomplish their tasks to make the 5k a memorable race. A full spread of breakfast foods, ranging from fruits to bagels to donuts, greeted each participant as they registered. As Midshipman 3/C Parrish heralded the masses with his invocation and opening speech, he mentioned that the 5K for Freedom Run funds the non-profit or-

ganizations 'Semper Fi Society' and 'Blue and Gold Association' which are dedicated to giving college students, who aspire to be Navy and Marine Corps officers, the skills, values, and experiences that will set them up for success in their future military careers. At his conclusion, Morgan Reynolds struck the crowd silent once more with her singing of the National Anthem. With the racers pumped and ready to go, the race began promptly at 0900 with the ringing blast of an air horn and the roar of the HMMWV, the leading vehicle. Proving The University of Memphis NROTC unit proud, Midshipman 4/C Johnson barreled through the course at 18 minutes and 16 seconds leading the rest of the runners. As the runners/ walkers were hailed and applauded when they crossed the finish line, they had the pleasure of celebrating their achievement to the music of DJ John Dawson. As with any other great U of M



MIDN 4/C Johnson keeping his lead on the home stretch!

NROTC event, there was a pull up competition, and to everyone's delight, two young girls, ages of four and five, decided to join in and demonstrate how to do more pull ups than some adults. After the surprise entertainment, everyone was ready for the awards. Each winner received his or her own dog tag and picture to the resounding congratulations of all those who were nearby. As all the

participants happily headed home, each person in the unit quickly and decisively cleaned everything up. Due to each and every Midshipmen's hard work and dedication, the 5k for Freedom was not only successful, but enjoyable and morale-raising.

Megan C. Wilson  
 Midshipman 1/C, USNR  
 NROTC, The University of Memphis

The University of Memphis at the conclusion of a successful 5k for Freedom!



# Professor of Naval Science



Greetings to The University of Memphis NROTC and our family and friends! With the spring and summer semesters in the books, I am pleased to report that our midshipmen performed exceptionally. I am proud of the product that this organization puts out to the fleet, and I am honored to be its Commanding Officer.

In addition to the daily rigors that come with participation in the NROTC program, the past months have included several professional development opportunities for our Midshipmen. Our drill team did a fantastic job competing in the Mardi Gras Drill Meet at Tulane University in February. In March, our students organized and executed the highly-successful "5K for Freedom" race in Arlington, TN. The midshipmen also experienced a taste of Naval and Marine Corps tradition and heritage during our annual Mess Night, which we held at the end of April at the Downtown Memphis Courtyard Marriott.

The spring semester was capped with eight of our best midshipmen earning their commissions. Captain John "Buzz" Source, USN (Ret.), the former Commanding Officer of The University of Memphis NROTC, was the guest

speaker and helped us welcome five ensigns into the United States Navy and three second lieutenants in the United States Marine Corps. Additionally, our summer semester culminated in the commissioning of two more ensigns into the Navy. This commissioning was different from other recent ceremonies in that it was held on the first morning of our unit's Freshman Orientation and was witnessed by our incoming students and some of their families. What a great opportunity to provide them insight into the bright future that our newest midshipmen have in our program. We were fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Nenon, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as our distinguished guest at the ceremony and are grateful to enjoy his continued support for the NROTC program. I am confident that these warfighters are entering the Fleet with all the tools required to successfully lead their Sailors and Marines!

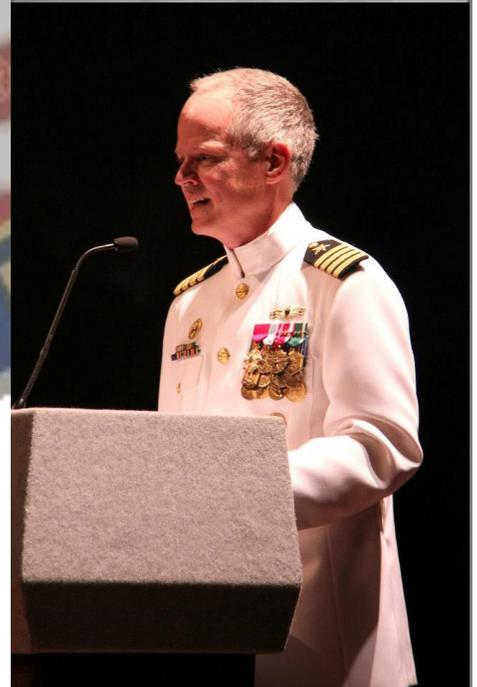
I would like to address two important issues. One, as always, is academics. Each Midshipman's academic performance plays a significant role in his or her development as a Navy or Marine Corps Officer. A strong performance will lead to more opportunities, while a poor performance can unfortunately lead to those same opportunities being lost. While we closed out our spring semester strong, earning a respectable 3.27 grade point average as a unit, there is still room for improvement. My staff and I consistently emphasize the importance of strong academics, and I urge all of our midshipmen to challenge themselves to earn an even higher GPA next semester!

The second issue I would like to address is sexual assault. As many of you are aware of, the focus on sexual assault in the armed forces has reached the national level. This heinous and inexcusable crime has unfortunately taken place within the Navy and Marine Corps. Our leadership is taking bold measures to eradicate completely

this illegal activity from our organization, and these measures have directly affected each midshipman here at The University of Memphis. As of this summer, every single midshipman has received several hours of intensive training in sexual assault prevention and response. This training is just one tool that we have used at The University of Memphis NROTC to raise awareness of and take an active stance against sexual assault. My staff and I are committed to ensuring that the environment we provide is safe and professional.

As we usher in the fall semester, I urge all of our midshipmen to continue to give their best effort in all facets of their military careers. Success in our program demands the highest levels of performance academically, physically, and professionally. I am confident in the abilities of our midshipmen and am excited to continue developing each one of them into the future leaders of our nation's Navy and Marine Corps.

Bradley C. Mai  
Captain, USN  
Professor of Naval Science  
NROTC, Mid-South Region





Another semester has quickly passed for the NROTC, Mid-South Consortium, and what a productive Spring 2013 semester it was! We commissioned twelve graduates representing all three of our universities – The University of Memphis, The University of Mississippi, and Christian Brothers University. Five commissioned as ensigns in the United States Navy and seven commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Marine Corps.

Collectively, the new officers reflected quite the diversity of academic specialties. The commissionees earned Bachelor Degrees in Business Administration, Business Management, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Education, Natural Science, Nursing, and Professional Studies. Despite the broad swath of academic interests and beyond the successful navigation of the academic requirements to earn their degree, the twelve have in common that each of them demonstrated the physical fitness, military aptitude, dedication to duty, teamwork, and ethical decision-making required for them to earn a commission. I am confident that each of the officers we commissioned is thoroughly prepared and capable to be immediate contributors to mis-

## Executive Officer's Corner

sion success at their first assignment as a commissioned officer. As we part company and they commence the next segment of their journeys, I wish them all a fond farewell and all the best. I am proud of each of them!

Most of the remaining NROTC students will be departing for summer training with Naval and Marine Corps units throughout the United States and at sea. It is indeed so very fortunate that the summer training for midshipmen survived the fiscal pressures of sequestration and the federal budget continuing resolution. The training is so very valuable to their development as the future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps. I urge the midshipmen to make the most of the opportunities presented to them during summer training; each of them should “become a sponge” – absorb every bit of knowledge and experience that they possibly can. Some of our staff also will be away on temporary duty assignment – serving as the training and coordination staffs for midshipmen on summer training from NROTC Units around the country. Major Perry, LT Jacobs, SSgt Shaw, and Mr. Crawford are serving in Pearl Harbor, HI, San Diego, CA, and Quantico, Va. As is typical in military service, most assignments are on the order of two-three years in duration. As such, NROTC Mid-South is losing some outstanding active duty instructors and gaining some new ones. Lieutenant Edward May, Jr., USN, (Memphis) has already detached for training en route to his eventual assignment as a submarine department head. Major Steven Thompson, USMC, Lieutenant

Cassidy Rasmussen, USN, GySgt Stephen Roberts, USMC (Ole Miss) will be departing before the start of the Fall 2013 semester. Relieving them, I welcome aboard Lieutenant Chris Whitley, USN, in Memphis and Captain Marcos Ruvalcaba, USMC, Lieutenant Lauren Ellison, USN, and soon-to-arrive GySgt Wilcox, USMC, at Ole Miss. I also welcome aboard Ms. Renee Bradberry, a delightful addition as an administrative assistant who assists with administrative matters throughout the consortium.

Finally, as I look forward to the Fall 2013 semester and prepare for approximately 50 freshmen to report aboard, start their college career, and take the first steps to earning commissions, I close with just a few simple words that I will further expound upon during Freshmen Orientation in August: “Performance matters—make smart decisions!”

Steven J. Skretkowicz  
Commander, USN  
Executive Officer  
NROTC, Mid-South Region





## Marine Officer Instructor

I am extremely proud of our Naval ROTC unit and your accomplishments during the spring semester. The Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, 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 3.08 in the spring 2012 to 3.27 in the spring 2013; physical readiness/physical fitness test scores trended upward. Through guided leadership discussions and professional reading our Midshipmen are gaining valuable insight into what is expected of future Na-

val 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 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership"* by John C. Maxwell. He uses the 21 laws to shape leadership; he builds on the fundamental aspects that make leaders great and by adding additional laws you will increase your effectiveness to influence/lead others.

I challenge the Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and MECEPs to continue building on what we have achieved during the spring 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 fall semester.

Semper Fidelis!

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





Hello parents, friends, and Midshipmen of NROTC Mid-South Region, The University of Memphis. I am eager to tell you about all of the exciting things that we have accomplished this semester, but first let me quickly introduce myself.

I am from Camarillo, California and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2008. I am a graduate of the Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC, the Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT and the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit (Prototype) in Saratoga Springs, NY. Upon graduating from prototype in April 2010, I reported aboard USS ALABAMA (SSBN-731), a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine stationed in Bangor, Washington. I proudly served as the Main Propulsion Assistant, Damage Control Assistant, Tactical Systems Officer, and Assistant Engineer. In 2012 I was certified by Naval Reactors as a Nuclear Engineer Officer.

I have been here for approximately six months and each day I'm more impressed by our outstanding Midshipmen. The past semester and summer were packed with valuable experiences; the Midshipmen have done some fantastic things both here at the unit and out in the fleet.

## 1/C and 2/C Advisor

This past summer, several of our midshipmen were able to experience a firsthand look at what life in the fleet is like. Some of these experiences included cruises on nuclear-powered fast attack submarines out of Pearl Harbor, HI and Norfolk, VA, a surface cruise on a missile-guided frigate out of Mayport, FL, a surface cruise on a guided missile destroyer out of Norfolk, VA, an aviation cruise with an F/A-18 squadron out of Lemoore, CA, CORTRAMID operations on both the West and East coasts, the Mountain Warfare Training Course in Bridgeport, CA, and Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. The Midshipmen who were able to attend these summer cruise training programs received valuable fleet experience that will directly correlate to them becoming more well-rounded officers. I encourage our Midshipmen to pursue their summer cruises with an open mind and a positive attitude, as each one of them is a direct representative of the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps Officers.

While a summer cruise is an extremely valuable training tool for a Midshipman's development as an officer, it is not the only important aspect of this program. A Midshipman's academic performance should be his or her highest priority; a good academic record can open doors while a poor academic record will shut them. During the spring 2013 semester, my current seniors (1<sup>st</sup> Class Midshipmen) earned an average GPA of a 3.17. I continue to stress the importance of academics to our Midshipmen and I'm confident that they will give a great effort academically this semester. The better a Midshipman's grades are, the more opportunities they will have available for them as officers in the Navy.

I also have the privilege of being in charge of service assignments for the Midshipmen when they become seniors. This is where I submit their paperwork for them to become a Submarine Officer, Surface Warfare Officer, Naval Aviator, Naval Flight Officer, or Navy Nurse Officer. I am pleased to report that all eight of this year's commissioned seniors received their first choice Navy service assignment. This again leads back to academics, as it is a significant part of the calculus that is used to determine what service assignment a Midshipman will be given. Put simply enough, the better the Midshipman performs, the higher the chance that he or she will receive their first choice in service assignment!

As we approach the fall 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 warfighting leaders of the strongest and most technologically-advanced Navy the world has ever seen. This requires excellence in academics, military performance, and physical fitness: traits that I am confident each Midshipman is capable of. I look forward to leading each of you to the fleet!

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



# 3/C and 4/C Advisor



The road to a commission is paved with good intentions and every semester a few more midshipmen miss the mark and the sturdy continue to rise through the ranks making this unit durable and eventually adding a few steadfast Sailors or Marines to the fleet.



As the recruiting officer I have met with several probable students and their parents interested in the Naval program. I've valued their heartening and supportive remarks and look forward to seeing these prospective students on a Navy or Marine Corp Scholarship or as a College Programmer challenging themselves to select for a scholarship in the near future.

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

The spring 2013 semester has been a roller coaster with all of the uncertainty due to the sequestration! The students kept a positive attitude and we were still able to complete another challenging schedule. The student chain of command had a thump in the road, but remained steadfast in the face of problematic seas. The unit is running seamlessly this semester which is a testament to the unresolved leadership of the top three billets!



Being a Mustang (prior enlisted and now commissioned officer) and University of Memphis alum I'm proud of all the fleet experience that the Marine Corp Enlisted Commissioning Education Programmers (MECEP) and the Seaman to Admiral Officer Candidates (STA-21) bring to the Naval ROTC unit. They act as role models to our incoming midshipman and provide them with vision, direction, and knowledge to be successful in the fleet. Sadly, we are down to one MECEP. Hopefully we will pick up more of these remarkable students!



This is one of the finest senior classes I've seen yet! They have paved the way for incoming upperclassmen with an optimistic attitude and an eagerness to learn and grow. I look forward to seeing them hit the fleet soon!

The midshipman are learning at the speed of light and taking what they learn and quickly teaching the lower class. They are learning the importance of the chain of command and how to efficiently utilize it! They are learning the importance of succeeding together as a team!

# Assistant Marine Officer Instructor



My first year as the Assistant Marine Officer Instruction for the University of Memphis Naval ROTC has been nothing but impressive. The standards before I came on board were set high. The student body was very motivated, dedicated and professional. As a unit we have to continue to build excellence within the unit.

Leaders do not command excellence they build excellence. Excellence is being all you can be within the bounds of doing the right thing. To reach excellence you must first be a leader of good character. You must do everything you are supposed to do. Pursuing excellence should not be confused with accomplishing a job or task. Excellence starts with leaders of good and strong character who engage in the entire process of leadership. And the first process is being a person of honorable character. Character

develops over time. A person's observable behavior is an indication of their character. This behavior can be strong or weak, good or bad. A person with strong character shows drive, energy, determination, self-discipline, willpower, and nerve. To be an effective leader, your followers must have trust in you and they need to be sold on your vision. One of the ways to build trust is to display a good sense of character composed of beliefs, values, skills, and traits

**Beliefs** are what we hold dear to us and are rooted deeply within us. They could be assumptions or convictions that you hold true regarding people, concepts, or things. They could be the beliefs about life, death, religion, what is good, what is bad, what is human nature, etc.

**Values** are attitudes about the worth of people, concepts, or things. For example, you might value a good car, home, friendship, personal comfort, or relatives. Values are important as they influence a person's behavior to weigh the importance of alternatives. For example, you might value friends more than privacy, while others might be the opposite.

**Skills** are the knowledge and abilities that a person gains throughout life. The ability to learn a new skill varies with each individual. Some skills come almost naturally, while others come only by

complete devotion to study and practice.

**Traits** are distinguishing qualities or characteristics of a person, while character is the sum total of these traits. There are hundreds of personality traits, far too many to be discussed here. Instead, we will focus on a few that are crucial for a leader. The more of these you display as a leader, the more your followers will believe and trust in you.

As we prepare for the fall semester we must continue to strive for excellence. We also must influence the new students incoming students and show them how they are suppose to conduct themselves as future leaders.

Quinton A. Shaw  
Staff Sergeant, USMC  
Assistant Marine Officer Instructor  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



# Student Company Commander



As the semester draws to a close and my time as the company commander ends, I reflect over how the semester has gone and the important values I can carry to the fleet. One of the most valuable lessons I have learned, is to trust my fellow Sailors. More than once this semester, a report would come across my desk of a glitch in the lower part of my chain of command. My initial reaction would be to jump up and go deal with it right away, however quickly I learned to trust my subordinates and those around me. I found out on many occasions how simply letting them do the jobs entrusted upon them, would end up surprising me with extraordinary innovation. Lead and let lead; although easy to envision, it is far more difficult to enact

than I had previously anticipated. Having a position of leadership, it is not easy to entrust others with something that directly relates to your own quality of leadership. Take the platoon labs for example, whereas I would tell my platoon commanders that it was their lab, not mine. I would be held responsible if something went wrong, however I let my leaders lead. If there is a problem with it then I reserved the right to change it if I felt I should, however; I eventually found out I never had to as Company Commander. My chain of command was entrusted with their jobs and carried them out with a degree of efficiency and professionalism I could never have anticipated. Everyone who has ever held a leadership position wants a high standard out of their people, and I was no different. What I learned, is that a high standard of leadership does not just happen, it takes people with a high degree of motivation to make the difference. Enforcing a standard can be hard with a unit as closely knit as ours. However we are all required to have the courage and mental fortitude necessary to look our friends in the eyes and tell them when they are wrong. The pride of reaching this high standard of leadership far outweighs all the pain and sweat it took

to get there. The last and most important lesson I have learned this semester, is that character is everything. The Navy can teach you how to tie knots, fly a plane or even how to sail a ship out to sea sideways. The Navy can teach you just about any of the skills necessary to do your job, but if you lack the fundamental concept of character, it means nothing. The Navy needs officers who are more than just technically savvy managers who are adept at their job; the Navy needs leaders with character who are capable of inspiring others to push past their personal inhibitions and previous potential. I am proud and humbled by the great work of Golf Company this semester, and I hope that they build on their accomplishments of this semester in the Fall and achieve even more. Never stop moving forward and never stop learning. In conclusion, I will leave you with this quote from General George S. Patton. "I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom." See you out in the fleet and good luck.

Timothy J. Strawser  
Midshipman 1/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



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# Mardi Gras Drill Meet



The University of Memphis NROTC Drill Team participated in the Tulane Mardi Gras Drill on 8 February 2013. The drill meet was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The team left on Thursday and traveled down to the NROTC unit on the Tulane Campus where the team stayed overnight. The next morning, MIDN Wendel, the drill team commander, attended a meeting describing the plan of the day.

The drill team participated in Inspection, Platoon Basic Drill, Squad Basic Drill, (all led by MIDN Wendel) and Color Guard (led by MIDN Sampson). It be-

gan with Inspection with three squads where a Marine Instructor inspected each squad.

The next event was the Color Guard consisting of five members. This event was held on a field and was graded by two Marine Instructors. The Color Guard performed well and placed 6th overall. The next event the drill team

participated in was the Platoon Basic Drill. This used the same formation that was used in the inspection with three squads consisting of five members each, plus a guide and a platoon leader. The team placed 7th overall. The final event that the drill team participated in was the Squad Basic Drill. This consisted of a squad leader and his squad of six midshipmen. The team placed 6th overall. With the competition being complete, the drill team waited until the award ceremony where it learned the results of the Drill Meet. Texas A&M won first place overall, and of the top five schools, four of them had a core of cadets. Overall, The University of Memphis came in 5th. The Mardi Gras Drill Meet was a good learning experience for many of the midshipmen, especially the fourth class midshipmen.

Matthew T. Wendel  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



On Saturday, March 23, 2nd Platoon conducted a 9 mile hike at Shelby Farms. The goal of the hike was to improve the midshipmen's overall physical and combat conditioning in order to get them ready for the future rigors associated with Officer Candidate School (OCS) and The Basic School (TBS). At approximately 0545, everyone began conducting one final gear inspection to ensure they were prepared for the exercise and were stepping off by 0600. The hike began at a slow pace, because everyone needed to warm their muscles up to prevent injury. Within 15 minutes, 2nd Platoon had entered the woods and began their fast-pace trek through the winding path. Since it was very dark for the first three miles, everyone had to maintain constant awareness of the terrain.

At the three mile mark, 2nd Platoon took their first break to eat, hydrate, and change socks, if necessary. They were also welcomed by the encouraging words and smiles of early morning walkers along with their playful dogs. After 10 minutes, everyone was stepping once again. For the 2nd portion of the hike, the sun began to come up and the trail was mostly in rolling fields. The temperature was pleasant, and the skies were gray as 2nd Platoon marched onto the visitor's center at Patriot Lake, their next stopping point. This break was much shorter, because everyone was feeling extra motivated and wished to continue the final portion of the hike with minimal rest.

The last portion was done mainly on a concrete trail, but it was nice to be able to clearly see your sur-

## Green Side Nine Miler



MIDN 1/C McAuley and MIDN 2/C Townsend leading 2nd Platoon on a nine mile conditioning hike.

roundings and be in the company of other people enjoying the park. By 0900, the hike was over; everyone convened at their vehicles to listen to an essay written by MIDN 4/C Allen and MIDN 4/C Smith. Due to their injuries, they couldn't hike, so they were instructed to write about leadership. Everyone was in great spirits despite the sweat, fatigue, and blisters. As a result, unit morale improved and everyone looked forward to a much needed meal and maybe a nap.

Andrew T. O'Brien  
Midshipman 3/C, USMCR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

## Navy Hike

It was a cold Saturday morning when we showed up to Shelby farms for the Navy's three mile hike. There was a bite to the morning air and the sense of anticipation was palpable. Even though we wished we were still in bed spirits were high. As we stood in the parking lot, talking and joking, we watched the Marines walk by on mile six of their nine mile hike; once again reminding us of how nice the Navy life is and any complaining quickly ceased. Soon the orders came down the Chain of Command and we prepared to move out. The hike would consist of a race between two teams. Gold Team was led by Midshipman Gargis,

and Blue Team was led by Midshipman Silvers. The objective was simple; each team would hike to a central point (1.5 miles) with water balloons (their purpose was a mystery) and then hike back. The air was tense with anticipation as we completed our preparations.

Soon each team set off on different paths toward the midpoint. After hiking, at some serious speed, Gold Team arrived first and beat Blue Team by almost four minutes. It was at this point we found out the secret purpose of the water balloons. Our goal was to hit a selected target (a tree)

at 10, 20, and 30 yards. The farther away one was the more points were awarded. The battle was fierce, but short. Gold Team managed to pull out another astonishing victory and therefore avoided having to clean up the water balloons. Soon it was time to hike back and the race was on again. Blue Team must have been tired of losing because by the time Gold Team arrived Blue Team had been waiting for some time. Apparently Blue team beat Gold team so bad that, despite losing two events, they appear to have won over all.

In the end it didn't matter who

won or lost because the real objective had been reached. We had all performed well in the competition, we had built more camaraderie, and most importantly we raised morale. We proved once again that the most valuable thing in the Navy is our shipmates.

Benjamin H. Winters  
 Midshipman 3/C, USNR  
 NROTC, The University of Memphis

## Midshipman of the Semester



Midshipman 3/C Clara Barnes

Hometown: Williston, TN

Major : Mechanical Engineering

GPA: 3.26

PRT: 205

Desired Service Assignment: SWO

# Marine Options Tackle the Obstacle Course

On Saturday, 2 March 2013, Midshipmen and active duty personnel from both The University of Memphis and Mississippi engaged in training to better prepare them for the rigors of Officer Candidate School. The training was conducted aboard Naval Air Station Meridian, located in Meridian Mississippi, and was based around the execution of the Obstacle Course. The Obstacle Course, also known as the "O" Course, can be one of the more challenging evolutions while at Officer Candidate School. It can

be your best friend or your worst enemy. Candidates will be expected to manipulate various obstacles in strict time limits and during the endurance course the "O" Course is just a precursor of what is yet to come.

This was an eye opener for the Midshipmen that have yet to experience the "O" Course. They were instructed on primary and alternate techniques required to successfully complete each obstacle and then each Midshipmen was given the opportunity to ex-

ecute. This training gave them an understanding of what their strengths are and also what shortfalls they need to improve on. While some flew through the course with little to no problems, others had to overcome fears such as the height of obstacles. Everyone took something from the training, and they are now better prepared for the challenge of Officer Candidate School.

Brandon K. Melton  
Sergeant, USMC  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

## New mural for the "Top Four"

In the fall of 2012, a major change happened in the Naval ROTC unit. The company office was moved to a new location. The Assistant Marine Officer Instructor's office and the company office switched places. In the new office, the company staff worked hard to make the office functional and a good working environment. Something was missing, however; and the company staff decided to brighten up the area by adding a mural on the wall. The company staff wanted a unique design for the mural and contacted the University of Memphis Art department in the hopes that they could provide some expertise. Marissa Cardin, an aspiring graphic designer, created a concept that was approved by the company staff  
(Continued on next page)



The company staff and Miss Cardin in front of the newly painted mural

and was asked to paint the mural in the office. The company staff is extremely pleased with the mural and is thankful for Miss Cardin's assistance. The company staff (all of whom are graduating seniors) are proud of the mark they have left on the office and look forward to hearing about what next

year's staff does to make the office even better.

Timothy J. Strawser  
Midshipman 1/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

## Navy V. Air Force



MIDN 3/C Grace shooting a free throw during basketball for the Commander's Cup.

The Navy vs. Air Force basketball game is one part of a myriad of events this unit competes in for the Commander's Cup. These events are a challenge that allows for friendly competition among the three ROTC units (Navy/Marine Corps, Army and Air Force). In the current game, Air Force dominated the first 20 minute half of the game, outscoring us by double! The Navy/Marine Corps team just didn't have the cohesion necessary to take the necessary possessions in the first

half of the game. However, in the final 20 minute half, we settled into our playing niche and it was then we became a threat to the Air Force team. We began to play more as a team by calling screens, having a more aggressive defense stopping the ball, forcing bad shots and crashing the basket after every shot. Our offense had also suffered that terrible first half; however, during the second half we had more hope with better passes, less throw-away shots and a much healthier communica-

tion. All the hard work and the earned points in the second half was not enough to overcome the large deficit from the first half and much to our dismay it was not the Navy/Marine Corps team who took victory.

Presley D. Morrissey  
Midshipman 1/C, USMCR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

# Mess Night



The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit held its annual Mess Night on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. The night was full of tradition and ceremony as well as laughter and camaraderie as the midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and ROTC staff enjoyed a fantastic meal. The night started with a cocktail hour. The freshmen were buzzing with anticipation of their first mess night. The seniors were grinning as they thought of the tricks they had planned. The general excitement was infectious.

The time came and everyone formed up outside of the mess hall, awaiting further instruction. After the initial ceremonies, the floor was opened for fines. Those in attendance took turns standing and accusing a peer of some crime that would violate the rules of the mess or violated the basic unit codes. Once the President of the Mess heard the accuser's

pleas, he would decide upon a punishment for the offending Midshipman's "crime." The fines quite often resulted in a song or a rendition of an improvised poem in addition to a trip to the grog. The grog is an "edible" slew of different food items that is intended to be anything but delicious. Midshipman Lyons stood first, accusing Midshipman White of the "heinous crime" of escaping the unit's Spring Cleaning.

One of the Rules of the Mess is that no one shall bring in any items from the outside, so it was quite surprising when Staff Sergeant Shaw received a present wrapped in Rapunzel wrapping paper. Upon opening the gift, he uncovered a large black afro wig that he was forced to wear for a large portion of the night. Shortly after everyone had finished eating, the skits began. Skits were the most entertaining part of the

evening. Groups of Midshipmen and Officer Candidates took turns poking fun at the ridiculous things that others had done earlier in the semester. Every single one of the skits was a success. 1<sup>st</sup> Squad of the Navy platoon portrayed an ROTC dating game. Midshipman Bretschneider led 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad in a portrayal of PT with Major Perry. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon played themselves with a recap of one of their Saturday morning hikes.

The night came to a close with the toasts and a few short pieces of information on the history of the Navy's traditions. All in all, a great time was had by all. The night turned out to be a wonderful morale boost and a perfect chance to get to know our fellow Shipmates better.

Clara C. Barnes  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

# Spring 2013 Commissionees



Ensign  
Jon-Ashton J. Acker-Moorehead

Christian Brothers University  
B.S. in Natural Science

First Assignment:  
MCM CREW SWERVE  
San Diego, California



Second Lieutenant  
Preston C. Beazley

The University of Memphis  
B.B.A. in Supply Chain  
Management

First Assignment:  
The Basic School  
Quantico, Virginia



Ensign  
Robyn J. Judy

The University of Memphis  
B.S. in Nursing

First Assignment:  
Fort Belvoir Community Hospital  
Fort Belvoir, VA



Second Lieutenant  
Brandon J. McAuley

The University of Memphis  
B.A. in Criminal Justice

First Assignment:  
The Basic School  
Quantico, Virginia



Ensign  
Timothy J. Strawser

The University of Memphis  
B.A. in Professional Studies

First Assignment:  
USS RUSSELL  
San Diego, California



Second Lieutenant  
Matthew F. Ward

University of Memphis  
B.S. in Education

First Assignment:  
The Basic School  
Quantico, Virginia

# Spring 2013 Commissionees



Ensign  
Anthony Ryan White

The University of Memphis  
B.S. in Computer Science

First Assignment:  
Naval Pilot Training  
Pensacola, Florida



Ensign  
Joshua M. Yoder

University of Memphis  
B.S. in Nursing

First Assignment:  
Naval Hospital-Pensacola  
Pensacola, Florida



# Summer 2013 Commissionees



Ensign  
Robert A. Lyons

The University of Memphis  
B.S. in Mathematical Sciences

First Assignment:  
Naval Flight Officer Training  
Pensacola, Florida



Ensign  
Kourgee S. Williams

The University of Memphis  
B.S. in Nursing

First Assignment:  
Balboa Naval Hospital  
San Diego, CA



# Hail and Farewell

Hail and Farewell is a traditional ceremony that all Midshipmen look forward to. This ceremony marks the end of an adventure for the graduating seniors, and the beginning of one for the new members of the unit. The ceremony involves many events such as food, games, awards, and inspirational farewell speeches. Hail and Farewell successfully kicked off at Central BBQ on May 2, 2013. Upon arrival, Midshipmen sat around tables and mingled. This was a time to kick back relax and talk about the semester and upcoming final exams. Also, during this mingling time a slideshow of pictures was rolling on a projector screen. These were pictures of the great times throughout the semester, and they were pictures of the last four years of the graduating seniors. After some time, the food was served. It was a delicious dinner that consisted of pulled pork and chicken, handmade BBQ chips, and baked beans provided by central BBQ. After the great food, the games were next. This is the most anticipated event. Every graduating senior and new members of the unit participate. The seniors this semester included: Gunnery Sergeant Ward, OC Yoder, OC Judy, Midshipmen Beazley, McCauley, Williams, Lyons, White, Wilson, and Strawser. The two new members of the unit were Sergeant Melton and Midshipmen Silvers. During this time the participants partake in games that are ridiculous and humorous in nature. For example, one amusing and challenging game is the "Oreo on the face" game. In this game participants have to put an Oreo on their forehead and move it to their mouth without using their hands. After the games had ended each participant was smiling from the fun they had whether they won or lost; however, the winner of the games was Sergeant Melton, a new member to the unit. He

won a gift card, a bag of M&Ms, and a bag of goldfish cracker snacks. After the games awards were given, the spirit award and the MOI challenge award were given to Midshipmen 3/C Ryan. Also, MIDN 3/C Barnes received Midshipmen of the Semester award. The conclusion of the ceremony was a bittersweet ending. During this time all the graduating seniors stood up individually and gave their last remarks to the unit. Some of them gave advice to the freshmen who will have to step up and fill their slots eventually. Some of them reminisced and talked about the amazing adventure they had while in the unit. Also, Lieutenant May stood in front of the unit to give his last remarks, because this was his last semester as the units 1C/2C Navy advisor. His final remarks touched the hearts of all the Midshipmen. He talked about how the unit taught him more about leadership than anything he had ever done. He also gave motivating words to all the Midshipmen to "Stay Strong" and achieve the ultimate goal of becoming a United States Naval or Marine Corps Officer.

Matthew Huetson  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

## Navy League

The Navy League Dinner took place at the Memphis country club on 18 April 2013. The Navy League honored four midshipmen from the University of Memphis Navy ROTC. Three of these individuals were recognized for receiving a Navy League scholarship for the Spring 2013 semester. The recipients included MIDN Barnes, MIDN Winters, and

MIDN Parker. The fourth recipient, MIDN Beazley, received a sword for honor graduate. After all of the midshipmen had been recognized,



MIDN Barnes was recognized for acquiring Midshipman of the Semester for her overall outstanding performance and hard work she has given throughout the semester. While at the Navy League dinner, we were able to talk to various officers that were attending the event. They asked us questions regarding our major and in what community we wanted to serve. After talking with people from the Navy League and other officers, we made our way to our table to eat dinner. The table was set for a three course meal and was decorated very fancy. After the main course, Rear Admiral Gay spoke at the event and helped recognize all the awardees at the event. The final awards were given out to other enlisted Sailors and Marines that were recognized by the Navy League. After all the awards were given out, the Master of Ceremonies concluded the dinner and everyone made their way home. Having attended this dinner was a real honor for all of us and reminded us of how much hard work and dedication pays off.

Michael W. Parker  
Midshipman 4/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

# Tri-Service Awards



Randolph, USAF. The award ceremony started with the arrival of the official party. Upon the arrival of the commanding officers, the awards were presented. In all, there were over 50 awards handed out to worthy midshipmen and cadets who have displayed unselfish leadership, excellence in academics and physical fitness, and a strong desire to serve their country.

Each organization, along with presenters from many associations, presented their awards to deserving midshipmen and cadets. Once all awards were handed out the midshipman and cadets received a few words from Captain Bradley Mai, USN. Captain Bradley Mai congratulated all of the awardees, and then proceeded to give some words of wisdom from his years of Naval service, concluding the ceremony for the Spring 2013 Tri-Service Awards.

Cody R. Silvers  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

On 11 April 2013, the Tri-Service Awards Ceremony was held in the Mitchell Auditorium. The awards were presented to the midshipmen and cadets of The University of Memphis' Army, Naval, and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) units.

The official party included the Naval ROTC Commanding Officer, Captain Bradley Mai, USN; the Army ROTC Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Sigloch, USA; the Air Force ROTC Commanding Officer, and Lieutenant Colonel Jacqueline



On Friday, 15 February 2013 the NROTC and AROTC squared off for the first basketball game of the Commander's Cup. The showdown took place at the recreation center on campus. The teams warmed up and went over their game plans one last time as the captains met at half court and shook hands. When the game began, both teams came out full of energy and ready to run. It took a few minutes before either team worked off the jitters and found the basket.

The first half was back and forth as they exchanged baskets equally. As the buzzer sounded for half time, the Army held a slight two-point lead. Coming out for the second half, it was evident that both teams had made adjustments on both offense and defense.

Neither team was willing to concede even as fatigue began to set in late in the second half. They continued to battle for boards and pressure the ball with sore legs,

# Navy V. Army



All tied up! The pressure is on!

both wanting the win. However, only one team could come out victorious. It would be the Army earning the hard-fought "W" that day by five points, the largest lead either team had held all game. After the game, the teams lined up to shake hands and talk about

the game with each other putting on a fine display of sportsmanship.

Parker J. Grace  
Midshipman 3/C, USMCR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

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# Sky Zone Motivational Lab

The University of Memphis Naval ROTC headed down to Sky-Zone (A trampoline entertainment park) for a motivational Lab. Once there the Midshipmen had plenty of choices of high flying games and obstacles that they could partake in. Dodge ball in a trampoline stadium, a large trampoline field/bowl, trampoline basketball dunks contests, and jumping in into a large foam pit. The Midshipmen faced officers and other Midshipman alike in a big game of trampoline dodge ball, in an arena that would have been fit for bouncy gladiators. Long grueling matches consisted of a constant onslaught of speeding dodge balls, like bullets in a warzone, where everyone was diving and dodging in hopes to dodge the speeding, stinging balls.

The matches would usually end in a showdown, that should have been reserved for a Clint Eastwood Western, where the two remaining players would sometimes consist of student vs. officer, making winning the only option for both opposing players. This motivational lab proved to be one of the most physically draining for midshipman and officers alike, many noted that this was the best cardio they had gotten in a long time, which is understandable because constantly jumping on trampolines dodging and throwing balls at one other is actually very exhausting.

Other things that were notable were the privilege of getting to see the Officers perform amazing dunks off of trampolines, watching fellow midshipmen perform daring flips and other high flying acrobatics into the large foam pit that was pre-



LT Whitley properly demonstrates the correct way to jump from a trampoline and throw a dodge ball. Sky Zone!

ceded by a very bouncy stunt trampoline, and just bouncing around enjoying and reliving childhoods. After a long day of jumping, the midshipman got together and enjoyed a buffet of pepperoni, sausage, and cheese pizza and discussed the things that they enjoyed most, and suggested that they should come to sky-zone for PT in the future! All in all everyone involved had a blast and this motivational Lab turned out to be one of the most successful and enjoyable to date.

Canton S. Phillips  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



Midshipman 1/C Strawser demonstrates how to dunk a dodge ball! 360 degree style.

# 2011-2012 Commander's Cup Field Meet

Seeing that this was my first Commander's Cup event I did not know what truly to expect from this highly competitive event. It was even worse seeing that I stayed in the dorms, over the past year, with the all of the other military branches. This means that there was a multitude of jeering and banter among the roommates on our particular wing. Not to mention the "smack talk" about the Commander's Cup that was exchange particularly between the Navy midshipmen and the Air Force cadets. At first this was all was just for fun and a reason to get cheap laughs but as the vari-

ous military branches football games and basketball games came and pass, the "insults" started to carry a bit more and more venom to them. The more that Air Force won the team sports, the more the importance of the actual Commander's Cup day began to weigh down heavily upon me and my other midshipmen. Then the day of Commander's Cup finally came which brought out the desperation of all the NROTC midshipmen, because this was our last chance to redeem ourselves and not come in last at this important event. From the beginning of the event I personally knew,

that we were physically superior in almost all events on that day. With Midshipmen Gargis and Townsend headed off to completely own the rucksack march, the swiftness of the entire relay team, Midshipmen Bretschneider leading the pack on the push up competition, and the buoyant and valiant Midshipmen who took home the gold in the swimming portion of the competition. In the meantime the tug of war, and the dodge ball competition should still be under review because of the because of questionable weather during the tug of war and the questionable tactics by the

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Army and Air Force during the dodge ball competition. Even though we did not win, I did enjoy the friendly fun that turned out, and it showed me the importance of military interrelations, because of events like the Commander's Cup, we share the values and morals of our each branch. Next year the Navy is definitely going to be taking home the gold so the other branches need to watch out!

David McKinnie  
 Midshipman 4/C, USNR  
 NROTC, The University of Memphis

# Super Squad Competition



presented to the squad leaders by the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor. The second half is a personnel inspection done by the student company staff. This offers all the students to showcase some of the many military traits they have learned throughout the semester. Some of these traits are bearing, knowledge, and enthusiasm. Even though this event is highly competitive each squad encourages the other while they are on the drill deck. Overall this event helps build camaraderie amongst the ranks by engaging the students in the type of professional competition that will benefit them in their future endeavors as Junior Officer in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Kevyn Evans  
 Midshipman 2/C, USNR  
 NROTC, The University of Memphis

On 18 April 2013 Golf Company competed in the drill portion of the Biannual Super Squad Competition. The competition is to give one squad out of the entire company the right to claim they were the best squad for a semester. The competition factors in academics, physical fitness, and drill of the entire squad. One half of the drill portion includes the execution of drill card



# 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 University 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.



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# Upcoming Events

Ridiculous Obstacle Challenge	Nashville, TN	21 Sep
Wine Under Wings	Memphis, TN	3 Oct
Wisconsin Fall Invitational	Madison, WI	4-5 Oct
Air Force vs. Navy Football	Memphis, TN	TBD
Sea Services Ball	Memphis, TN	18 Oct
LCpl Creager 5K	Millington, TN	9 Nov
Army vs. Navy Football	Memphis, TN	TBD
MOI Endurance Challenge	Memphis, TN	15 Nov
3 Mile Conditioning Hike (Marines)	Shelby Farms	TBD
3 Mile Conditioning Hike (Navy)	Shelby Farms	TBD
Fall Commissioning Ceremony	Memphis, TN	13 Dec

