



SOUNDINGS

2016-2017

Fall Battalion Staff



BNCO: MIDN 1/C
NATHAN GUYER

Fall semester is a dynamic time at the ROTC unit. A new cohort of midshipmen, OCs and MECEPs join our ranks, upperclassmen return from summer cruises—often with a refined idea of where they hope their military career leads—and striving to grow into a cohesive unit, we launch into a new academic endeavor. Serving as the Battalion Commander was a selfishly rewarding and a selflessly humbling experience. I grew as leader through the challenges and triumphs of an active organization and I was humbled by the talent I saw develop around me and support me.

The unit revisited our concept of mentorship by implementing a new “qualification card” to help assimilate incoming freshmen. We streamlined our rank structure to only one platoon, putting more emphasis on the value of squad leaders and improving our communication up the chain of command. It was also the first semester we were able to enjoy our new and improved wardroom. Change was abundant, yet we strove to keep morale and motivation high. Participating in all this as BNCO, gave a uniquely beneficial perspective of ROTC and the Navy as a whole.



BN XO:
STAFF SERGEANT
BLAKE COOPER

As the fall semester Midshipmen Battalion Executive Officer, I had a great opportunity to see and deal with almost all aspects of the Battalion and its daily operations. While there were speed bumps, as there are in any organization, our unit completed our many missions throughout the semester and several battalion members were successful along the way. One of the best things about being a military/battalion member is the opportunity that we have to participate in training that stresses the importance of leadership, team work, and critical thinking. While these traits don't come without practice, we are able to help foster and build these vital characteristics in our Nation's future Navy and Marine Corps leaders.

One of the ways that we “build-up” our members, is through events like the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC). The LRC pits a small unit against a difficult task that requires mental and physical toughness, and is essentially impossible to complete without strong leadership and team work. The LRC was a great way for our future leaders to see how important team work and decision making is, especially during a time of uncertainty and friction, and it should remain a useful tool for years to come.



BNMC: MIDN 1/C
CONNOR BARNES

As the Battalion Master Chief, it was my goal to instill the level of excellence and professionalism into the freshmen class required by our unit. I personally felt the professional development by way of senior mentoring was lacking since I first entered the NROTC unit. I decided to approach the problem from a different angle by starting a qualification system that taught the 4/C midshipmen a base level of knowledge and forced them to assimilate into our culture. The qualification cards mirrored the system used in the fleet used to earn warfare devices and included tasks such as performing colors correctly and passing oral examinations pertaining to different documents which govern our actions. All of the freshmen were successful in qualifying by the end of the first semester and were welcomed into the wardroom. As the BNMC, I was proud of the enthusiasm of the freshmen and the upperclassmen who spent their time mentoring them.

Spring Battalion Staff

In the Spring Semester, the Battalion staff have the challenging task of leading the unit through the end of the school year and setting each other up for success in our summer endeavours. We made many changes this semester and while there were plenty of bumps in the road, the Battalion remained positive and flexible. The best part of being BNCO was watching unit members flourish in their roles as they met and overcame challenges. I have no doubt that Utah will be represented well this summer during cruises and eventually in the fleet itself.

While serving as BNCO, I was privileged to have a unique perspective of our unit as a whole. Fresh off Northwest Navy it is easy to reflect on the comparisons between our Battalion and others. However, our size and sense of camaraderie offer many advantages. As a Battalion we are allowed the opportunity of multiple top leadership positions, granting more experience to be used in the fleet. We also have 4/C Midshipmen who are already stepping up and taking responsibilities as lab and event OICs. These opportunities aren't available everywhere and although this sometimes means more work, the benefits far outweigh the sacrifices. I am proud to lead and be a member of the scrappy and distinguished Battalion that is the Utes.

During my time as Battalion Executive Officer, I had the privilege of witnessing and having direct involvement in our many successes over the past semester. From taking home first place in drill at Northwest Navy to the commissioning of our newest Navy and Marine Corps Officers, I am exceptionally proud of all that this unit has accomplished.

Over the course of the semester we pushed to improve transparency and keep motivation high. I believe that we succeeded in our mission, but it was not absent of significant challenges. At times I would remind myself of a quote by Mark Twain, "Good decisions come from experience. Experience comes from making bad decisions." As a Battalion staff, the learning curve was steep and we certainly had our growing pains but we all emerged better, more resilient leaders as a result.

Ultimately, I found the most rewarding part of the job was being able to see individuals grow and develop into the leaders that will take the Navy and Marine Corps into the uncertain future. I have no doubt that our graduating seniors are up to the task and that the underclassmen will be ready when their time comes. I am thankful for the experience I was blessed with and feel honored to have been chosen to help lead such a talented group of young men and women.

As Battalion Master Chief, I'd like to congratulate everybody on making it through another year. The end of the Spring semester brings us all one step closer to commissioning and promising careers as military officers. Over the course of the past 17 weeks we've sought to empower each member of the Battalion by placing an increased amount of responsibility on midshipmen throughout the ranks. This effort started last semester with a revised Battalion structure and the Midshipman 4/C Qualification Card. The effort continued this semester with the updated Watch Standing Guide, which was completely overhauled to make it more in accordance with current practices. For the most part, those standing duty have done an excellent job following the written policies and procedures. I encourage everybody to continue to improve their attention to detail, both on and off duty. Little details make a big difference. As we strive for excellence in even the smallest of details, we will be better able to take care of the people we will lead, and we'll increase our overall effectiveness both as individuals and as a Navy & Marine Corps team. Remember, a commission as a Naval or Marine Corps officer is a privilege, one your attention to detail will help prove you've earned. Keep up the good work and I'll see you in the fleet!



BNCO: MIDN 1/C
ZACHARY SMITH



BN XO:
OFFICER CANDIDATE
NICKOLAS HICKMAN



BNMC:
OFFICER CANDIDATE
DENNIS MAULDWIN



LIMA CO. 3RD PLT ARE INTRODUCED TO THEIR SGT. INSTRUCTORS ON PICK UP DAY AT OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL.

MARINE OPTIONS EMBARK ON THEIR FIRST STEP TOWARD BECOMING UNITED STATES MARINES

**CHRISTIAN NASH
MIDSHIPMAN 1/C**

Officer Candidate School (OCS) was an interesting experience, both more and less than I had anticipated. In my mind, I worked up OCS to be some big monster, which I think was good, because when I arrived I felt more prepared and everything felt more obtainable while I was there. Now I say that, but I don't want to take away from the fact that it was still challenging. It demanded that I put out continuously and I did. I surprised myself on the Endurance Course, which is comprised of the obstacle course (O-Course) and partial combat course, conducted along a three-mile designated trail. All the advice I had received was to "keep running, even if it was a slow shuffle, just keep going". The expectation for the course was that we would all barely make the 40-43 minutes' mark (43 minutes being the slowest you can do the course). What makes it hard is how tired you get after running for what

is probably close to two miles just to get to the first obstacle after you finish the Obstacle Course. For me, once I started doing obstacles everything got easier. I felt more alive doing new and different actions each time so it was refreshing. I ended up finishing in about 36 minutes. The Endurance Course is considered one of the harder events at OCS, it was an absolute confidence booster to finish well within the expected and required times. I wasn't intimidated by the nine-mile hike to SULE (Small Unit Leadership Exercises) because of all the hiking we do at the University of Utah. I was worried about whether I would be able to properly receive, translate, and give my five-paragraph order to my squad to ensure they were properly briefed on the information pertaining to the assault I would be leading them into. If I could do that, I knew I could lead my unit through the exercise. I succeeded in scoring rather high within my platoon on the SULE exercises and I felt absolutely relieved to

have that big weight off my shoulders. It all came down to good preparation before leaving, and good prepping while I was there with my squad.

Bulldog prep also did a great deal to help familiarize me with the course work that we would be put through academically, the land navigation knowledge we would be required to demonstrate, and other small lessons that would be taught at OCS. Overall, OCS taught me to be quiet, be humble, communicate with your squad, help them out, and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it, and seek to be on top of everything in order to set the example. Reflecting on the experience MIDN 1/C Williams, said "OCS was one of the most challenging and rewarding things I have done in my life."



CAPTAIN MARK SPRINGER DONATES BLOOD FOR THE 2016 UNIVERSITY OF UTAH BLOOD DRIVE.

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH NROTC BLEEDS RED FOR THE 2016 BLOOD DRIVE

AMANDA PFAFF
MIDSHIPMAN 4/C

On September 7th, 2016, the University of Utah NROTC unit hosted a blood drive with the American Red Cross. Donating blood, although a frightening experience, can also be a rewarding one. By giving just one pint of blood, you can help save up to three lives. Thanks to the efforts of everyone at the University of Utah, the blood drive was a big success. We had 16 midshipmen donate, 11 donations from active duty, 16 guests, and a donation from the unit secretary. This totaled forty-four donors and provided 41 pints of blood and platelets, which can save up to 123 lives. Staff Sergeant Cooper, the OIC of the blood drive ensured that the units first drive ran smoothly, which was a huge part of the blood drives success. Midshipman 4/C Reeves recalls, "Although the blood drive did not really work out for me, I was very impressed with how well the unit came together for a good cause. Also, I think it stressed the

importance of leadership and organization, both which ended up being vital in the success of the blood drive." Overall, a blood drive can be a roller coaster of emotions, but ultimately leaves you feeling elated and in my case a little light headed.

This was my first time giving blood. I wasn't nervous about the needles or seeing blood, I was more concerned about passing out afterward. When you're only 5'4" and four pounds over the minimum weight to give blood, your odds of passing out are pretty high, and it being my first time only made matters worse. There are only so many things you can do to prepare for a blood drive day: eat a good meal, stay hydrated, and be in good health.

To my surprise, the most agonizing aspect of giving blood was answering all the health-related questions, and of course the finger prick. Once you got to the actual donating part, it really just became a waiting game. Everyone's donation

experience is different since blood flow is never the same and everyone reacts differently to their decreased level of blood. In the approximately fifteen minutes it took for me to fill my pint, there were at least three people that weren't in NROTC waiting to donate. It was very impressive to see so many people willing to donate that we had a queue so early in the drive. Shortly after I sat down at the snack table, I started feeling dizzy, prompting one of the blood drive workers to come over. She instructed me to lie down on the ground, but in my dazed state it was really hard to understand what she wanted me to do. I was already unhappy that I had almost passed out in front of a ton of random people, but now I also had to lay on the gun deck, while someone took pictures of me in my woozy state. Despite my first time giving blood almost leading me to pass out, it was a very exciting experience that I'm glad I was able to have with NROTC and my fellow midshipmen.



THIS YEAR, THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH NROTC AND AFROTC GATHERED TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT DODGEBALL AND BASKETBALL GAMES TO B



BUILD CAMARADERIE AND ESPRIT DE CORPS AMONG THE NAVAL AND AIR FORCE SERVICES.



MIDN WILLIAMS LEADS 4/C MIDSHIPMEN THROUGH THEIR FIRST MILITARY STYLE CLASS AT NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION.

FRESHMEN GET THEIR FIRST TASTE OF MILITARY LIFE

ALLISON REEVES
MIDSHIPMAN 4/C

Evidently not one method of learning is the correct one, but there is a certain effectiveness when people are thrown in head first and tasked primarily to learn. The University of Utah NROTC detachment's indoctrinates the freshman in the heritage and military culture expected in the unit by putting them into seventy two hours of training called New Student Orientation (NSO). As a freshman reflecting on this experience based training, I can say NSO taught me more than I thought possible to learn in this time frame and is something I would not trade for the world.

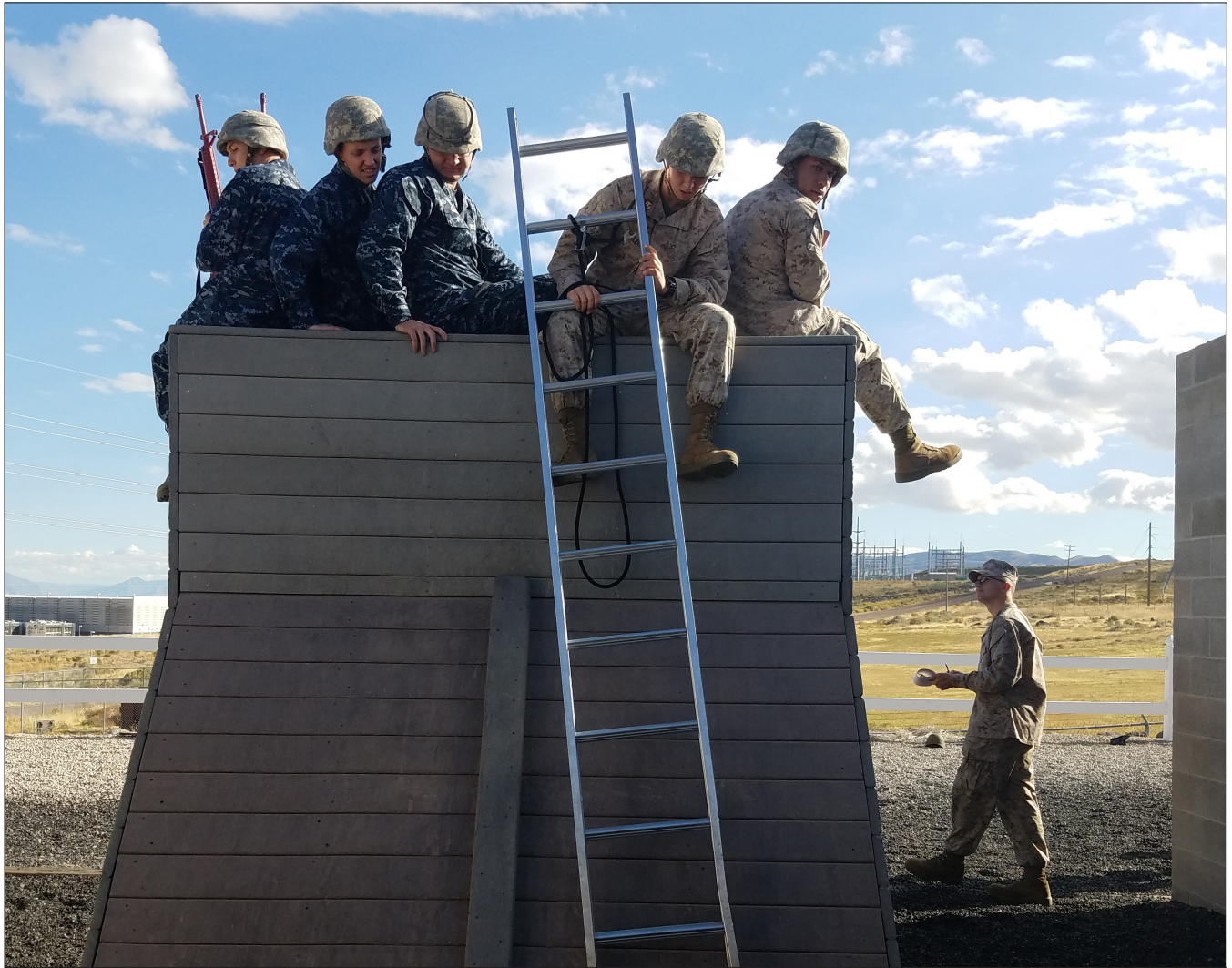
The breadth of what we were taught at NSO was astounding. Not a minute was wasted, as we were met by demands for proper posture, volume, attentiveness, and attention to detail. Just because we were new did not mean we were held to a lesser standard. After becoming acceptably proficient in our professional manner, we learned many customs and courtesies practiced in the Navy such as greetings of the day and proper military responses (especially the difference between aye aye sir and yes sir). In understanding the sacrifices of those ranked above us, MIDN 4/C Merrill took away that, "It is important to respond correctly to military personnel because

they have served our country and that deserves the utmost respect". NSO helped us to understand that both heritage and tradition run deep in a whirlwind instruction that covered nearly aspect midshipmen must know. Each exercise taught specific as well as overarching lessons, applicable to our future not only in the unit, but for the future in the fleet.

The most impactful lessons we learned at NSO were ones I had not expected. It was not until after running up a mountain at our weakest point, and leaving two fellow midshipmen behind that we truly embraced the importance of team. Finishing first while fellow midshipmen fell behind yields no victory. From this event, MIDN 4/C Singh took away that "moving as a team is the best way to overcome adversity at any level". The value in "Service Above Self" was sent home as we learned that working for your team quickly becomes more important than working for yourself, in every regard. The importance of team also taught us to thrive as a leader. Even when feeling at my lowest point, I was able to take the lead even when I wasn't entirely sure what I was doing, I was able to find confidence in myself and was able to give full trust to those people I had met only hours before. However, As MIDN 4/C Farhat says, we learned: "In order to be a good leader, you need to learn

how to be a follower". At these times of weakness, we learned to rely on one another for support and take turns picking each other up to find success in our task, no matter how menial it may seem.

My experience in summary, is that I walked away from NSO knowing more that I knew there was to know, but it can be summed up by the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I found the importance of honor in the way I am to hold myself in every form as a representation of the Navy past and present, even when it is the last thing I want to do. I found courage in taking risks, stepping up and following others who stepped up. I found commitment in sticking the weekend out, keeping myself and uniform in regulation standards, and completing the sets for PT. Most importantly, I learned the significance of we. NSO was an experience that displayed only the beginning of how deep the military family runs and started to prove its importance from the first minutes. Despite being one of the most challenging experiences I've ever had, NSO changed me, forced me to grow, and helped me realize that the Navy is the place for me.



BATTALION MEMBERS NEGOTIATE A CHALLENGING OBSTACLE AT THE LEADERSHIP REACTION COURSE AT CAMP WILLIAMS.

MIDN TEST THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AT CAMP WILLIAMS

NIKHIL SINGH
MIDSHIPMAN 4/C

On 6 October 2016, our unit conducted a lab at Camp Williams known as the Leadership Reaction Course- a series of team-oriented challenges that teaches people to work together to reach a certain objective. Each person took a turn being the team leader and the groups only had about eleven minutes to complete the objective in compliance with the obstacles specific rules (such as red metal bars delineating the ground in which the group members could not step). MIDN Reeves explained that “some of the tasks seemed impossible, but we soon realized it was built to measure our reactions, not our results”. In many situations,

group members had to devise and execute a plan in how they move not only themselves across the red zone, but ammo cans and empty barrels as well. In some obstacles, members had to use their trouser belts as an improvised rope to climb and descend structures. Because group members had to work together in a challenging environment, “positive reinforcement helped me become a better leader,” says MIDN Pearrow. After time expired to complete each obstacle, team leaders were assessed by instructors and given a personalized review of their. Most of the team leaders would agree that their performance debrief helped them identify aspects of their leadership that was either overlooked

or in need of improvement which ultimately improved everyone’s ability to be a team player and have fun in the process. I personally benefited from this lab because I had multiple opportunities to lead my team through difficult challenges and I was able to gauge my ability to make timely decisions under pressure. I feel it is good to have hands-on experiences like this early in my career so I can significantly improve them by the time I commission as an officer. “It was fun...” said MIDN Pfaff, “...until I broke my arm.” At the end of the day, everyone also learned the importance of safety when participating in the Leadership Reaction Course.



MIDSHIPMEN AND STAFF PERFORM THE CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY DURING THE 2016 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BALL.

THE NROTC BATTALION GETS DOWN TO CELEBRATE THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

PRESTON TAYLOR
MIDSHIPMAN 3/C

On October 28th 2016 the University of Utah held their annual Navy and Marine Corps Ball at Westgate Resort to commemorate the 241st birthday of our country's Navy and Marine Corps. Even though the Ball is a tradition throughout all the NROTC units across the country along with most active Navy and Marine Corps commands, how it is planned and executed is different every year. Whether it be someone's first or last time attending, the Navy and Marine Corps Ball always comes out as one of the most favored events throughout the year. One of the Midshipman's dates expressed her thoughts on her experience the night of the Ball: "Attending the Ball was my first time attending a military

function and I was thoroughly impressed on how well it was put together and performed. I loved the meaning behind every event that happened in the ceremony like the POW message and the guest speaker's remarks. If I have the chance again, I would love to attend another Navy and Marine Corps Ball" (Breanna Empey).

Though the meaning behind the ball is to celebrate the birthday of our illustrious service branches, we also use the Ball to teach and educate midshipmen on how to plan and coordinate an event. By putting a midshipman as Officer in Charge (OIC), they learn many valuable lessons that will benefit them once they join the fleet. One of the biggest things that I learned to do as an assistant OIC of this year's Ball, was

how to communicate with outside sources and how to coordinate an event on a specific budget. The OIC, Midshipman Haber, conveyed his thoughts on the process of organizing the Ball, "Though the planning process can be difficult and time consuming at times, the reward of seeing everybody enjoying themselves and having everything fall into place the night of Ball outweighs the struggles of coordinating the ball".

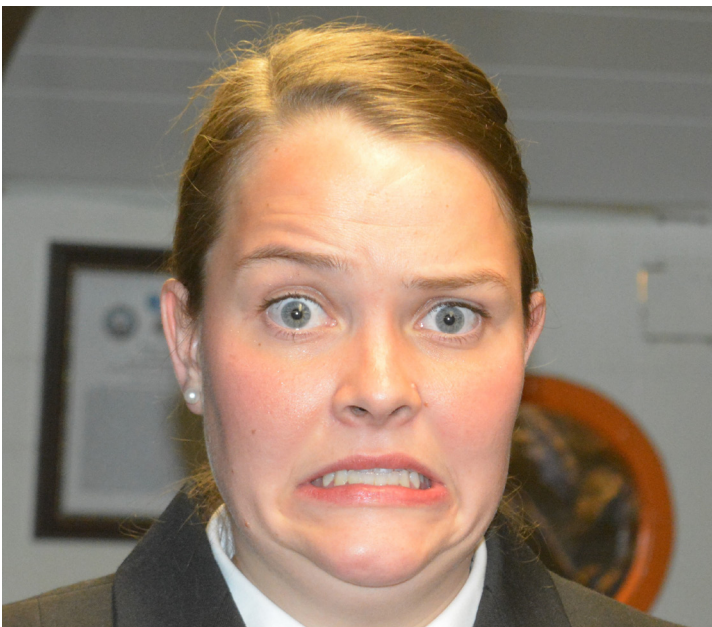
The Navy and Marine Corps Ball was a great success this year and taught me many valuable and life long lessons on the duties and responsibilities of being an AOIC of an event, while being able to give tribute to the birth of the Marine Corps and Navy.

UPPERCLASSMEN TAKE PART IN MILITARY TRADITIONS AT ANNUAL DINING IN EVENT



CHRISTIAN NASH
MIDSHIPMAN 1/C

Dining In is a ceremony that honors and continues traditions celebrated throughout the history of the Navy and Marine Corps. It also serves as a time to grow esprit de corps as a unit and to improve morale. We had the great fortune of getting to host our Dining In at a local Veterans of Foreign Wars outpost which further saturates the historical importance, as veterans who go to the VFW are able to share with and enjoy the memories and share sea stories of their own experiences with Navy and Marine Corps traditions.





UNIVERSITY OF UTAH PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE AFTER COMPETING AT NORTHWEST NAVY IN APRIL

NROTC UNITS GATHER FOR ANNUAL NORTHWEST NAVY COMPETITION AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

**MORGAN WRIGHT
MIDSHIPMAN 4/C**

It is common knowledge that the University of Utah NROTC unit is small in comparison to its counterparts. One would have never guessed this had they witnessed the unit's performance on competition day of Northwest Navy 2017 at Oregon State University.

In the predawn hours of competition day, MIDN 3/C Smith, MIDN 1/C Guyer, and MIDN 4/C Reeves promptly put all other competitors to shame in the Physical Readiness Test event. Smith and Guyer came in 1st and 2nd in the run portion, respectively, both with sub-8 minute times. For MIDN 4/C Reeves, this evolution would be the first of five throughout the day. This performance set a common tone. At every corner, University of Utah NROTC seemed to outrun the competition in some form or another, both in results and sheer willpower.

MIDN 2/C Haber displayed fierce athleticism in the 800m run portion of the CFT. Soon-to-be marines lined up at the start line

found themselves 200m behind Haber seconds later. In the other evolutions involved with the CFT, loud grunts and strained faces shown from other units. Where OC Yurick was concerned, all that was seen was a determined face and resolved tenacity. This was especially impressive since she had twisted her ankle one evolution before, and was icing the injury every chance she could. This would also be one of many events she would be involved with throughout the day. The steel-resolve and commitment of both Reeves and Yurick was especially notable, earning them both the "MVP of Northwest Navy" award from Captain Springer upon return to the unit.

In the soccer tournament, MIDN Monzon lead his team through a series of games in which the losses were only by one point. In basketball, the team placed second, with several 3-point shots sunk by MIDN 3/C Hullinger. The swim team, though not getting 1st, closed distance deficits consistently, with the help of MIDN 3/C Garcia and MIDN 4/C Palmatier.

Despite the dedication, the unit had yet to get a first place. They went into drill with a hunger to thoroughly destroy all competition. Just before the drill team competed, Gunnery Sergeant Brewer bestowed sound advice upon its members: "be intense, and smack the weapon". MIDN 3/C Taylor shortly thereafter gave the order to fall in, and began the drill card. The three squads were in sync instantly, and obeyed the assertive commands of MIDN Taylor in accordance with Gunnery Sergeant's previous orders. The drill team's performance earned a 1st place for the first time in several years, with special recognition given to MIDN Taylor, who earned "best drill leader" award later that night.

The performance of the battalion that day was a shining example of honor, courage, and commitment. All MIDN left satisfied with their performance. Upon hosting this event next year, the same grit and tenacity will most certainly be displayed.





THE BATTALION POSES ON THE STEPS OF THE UTAH CAPITOL BUILDING FOLLOWING THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY.

CELEBRATING TEN NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

NATHAN GUYER
MIDSHIPMAN 1/C

“To support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.” The call to action that future Navy and Marine Corps Officers take is no small charge, and not all that desire the responsibility, receive it. The commissioning class of 2017 is a representation of those that showed the capacity to be accepted and the commitment to last in the ROTC program. The University of Utah NROTC unit will be sending six Midshipmen, three Officer Candidates and one Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program into the ranks of our country’s junior Navy and Marine Corps Officers.

As per tradition, the commissioning ceremony was held at the Utah State capitol building, where more than 200 people gathered in the central rotunda to witness ten new officers being sworn into service.

Guest speaker, Utah Congressman Chris Stewart, addressed the commissionees and guests, providing stories of his prior Air Force service and well wishes for our new junior officers. For many, this achievement represents a long sought after journey.

“Commissioning has been my goal since I joined the Navy five and half years ago,” said Ensign Dennis Mauldwin. “Up to this point, I’ve been learning about how to be an officer. Now it’s time to be an officer. My family and I are excited for the new experiences my commission will bring.”

“I’ve waited so many years for the day I could call myself a United States Marine, for the day I could wear the uniform and finally have the chance to live up to my dreams,” said Second Lieutenant Christian Nash.

Second Lieutenant Blake Cooper was the officer in charge of the ceremony, working on coordinating with the capitol, guest speaker and general logistics since fall semester. “Being able to plan, coordinate, and make decisions for any event/mission is one of the highlights of being a leader,” said Second Lieutenant Cooper.

Ensigns Dennis Mauldwin, Shari Yurick, Keith Hantla and Connor Barnes will all begin Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC. Ensign Zachary Smith will attend flight school in Pensacola, FL, while Ensign Nathan Guyer will start special warfare training in Coronado, CA and Ensign Lander Cannon will

embark on the USS Fort McHenry out of Mayport, FL. Second Lieutenants Christian Nash, Blake Cooper and Chris Williams will kick off their career in the Marine Corps with The Basic School in Quantico, VA.

From the battalion leadership, commissioning is a chance to see the next generation of officers begin their careers. “The stakes are now raised and I challenge you to exceed expectations,” said Lieutenant Sean Feeney. “The active duty staff has attempted to provide you with the basic skills of being an Officer. It is now up to you to improve upon the good habits and get rid of the bad ones. Remember to utilize the experience of your senior enlisted, lean on your fellow officers, and never ignore your junior enlisted. When all else fails, keep pounding the rock!”

Each commissionee takes “this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion”, the obligation of serving and representing their country in whatever office they enter. The journey is humbling, the journey is necessary, the journey is starting. So help them god.





Captain Mark Springer

Another year gone and again I can't believe how quick it was. As I mentioned last year, my first task was to watch and listen to see where we could take an already high performing organization to further greatness. After observing four changes of Battalion leadership I can truly say that the unit gets better and better each semester. The Unit is more prepared than ever to produce combat leaders for the Navy and Marine Corps.

There were several subtle changes this year. First and foremost was the transition to precision loading for scholarship selection. This meant that there are now less than 800 scholarship opportunities nationwide and Utah only had five four year scholarship MIDN report to New Student

Orientation (NSO). The staff responded by accepting five college program basic candidates to make a freshman class of ten. Four of the five are still in the unit and with a significant increase in three and two year side load scholarships there is a very strong probability that many of them will earn partial scholarships and commission upon graduation. This is the new model where the Navy doesn't buy attrition but rather relies on college program Midshipman to come here on their own dime to compete and win a side load scholarship to account for those we lose along the way.

The second change was the loss of our nurse corps option MIDN. While the Navy has not eliminated NROTC as a source for nurses, it has significantly scaled back the number of scholarships such that none were placed at Utah. There is a positive unintended consequence to this in that the overall size of the battalion did not decrease and now all members of the battalion are destined for Unrestricted Line (URL) career paths. In other words everyone is now singularly focused on combat warriors ready for the fight where the primary objective is

putting weapons on target.

Lastly the Unit has been informally recognized by Officer Development as having a superlative track record producing nuclear power candidates. We continue to enjoy a 100% pass rate at the Naval Reactors four star interview, continue to send our best juniors to interview early and continue to attract more than our share of Seaman to Admiral (STA-21N) candidates. All of this plus the Battalion's impressive 3.3 cumulative GPA has meant that for the second year in a row every senior received their first choice for service assignment and no one has been drafted to a second or third choice career field.

In closing I am truly biased. The class of 2017 is better than the class of 2016 and I can already see the class of 2018 doing things that will build on both. Congrats to our new ENS's and 2ndLt's, the world is somehow even faster and more dangerous than a year ago. I know you are ready and will make us proud. To quote Amelia Earhart, "the most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity". Live the dream every day!

Major Tyler Holt



The battalion enjoyed another strong year where midshipmen, Marines, and Sailors grew morally, mentally, and physically. Now we bid farewell to a group of Ensigns and Second Lieutenants who are beginning the next step of preparing to lead Sailors

and Marines into harm's way. These new officers will have to find ways to deter and defeat people who would like nothing more than to harm American citizens and strike blows against our freedoms. The challenges they will face require character, a sense of purpose, intellect, and discipline.

Our Sailors and Marines stand sentinel, guarding America against threats. Soon, the new officers of this unit will lead those men and women. For our newly commissioned officers, accomplishing your future missions and caring for those under your command will require enormous effort and will test your limits, but your service will reward you. You are part of some-

thing much larger than yourselves and your efforts make a difference in the lives of others. The strength of your character will be the foundation for your successes.

To the families of our newly commissioned officers and our midshipmen, take pride in your new commissioned officer's accomplishments. They are rigorously preparing themselves for bright futures. They could not do this without the support of their spouses, parents, and siblings. We cannot express how appreciative we are of your support. Thank you for what you do.



LT Sean Feeney



LT Sean Feeney is a native of Pottstown, Pennsylvania and enlisted in the Navy July of 2002 as a SONAR Technician (Surface).

Upon completion of "A" and "C" school in San Diego, LT Feeney reported to USS Winston S. Churchill in 2003, out of Norfolk, Virginia, where he promoted to First Class Petty Officer and qualified as an Enlisted Surface

Warfare Specialist. His wife Lauren and he had their first child Connor during this tour. He was selected as a primary Surface Warfare Officer Candidate for the Seaman-to-Admiral 21 program while onboard.

After completing his STA-21 prerequisites at the Naval Science Institute in Newport, Rhode Island, he reported to NROTC Unit The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, where he earned his B.S. in Computer Science and his commission in 2011.

He reported to USS Forrest Sherman on June of 2011 where he served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer for his first division officer tour. He earned his Surface Warfare Qualification in July 2012. During this assignment, USS Forrest Sherman independently deployed to the Sixth

Fleet Area of Responsibility.

Upon completion of his first division officer tour, he attended the Surface Navigator Course in Newport. He returned to USS Forrest Sherman as Navigator where he deployed to the C6F and C5F Areas of Responsibility. Lauren and Sean had their second child, Lilian, during this tour.

He reported to the Naval Re-serve Officers Training Corps Unit, University of Utah, January 2016 where he serves as an Assistant Professor of Naval Science and Freshman/Sophomore Advisor.

LT Feeney's awards include Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (5 awards), and various unit, service and campaign awards.

LT Michael Head



LT Michael Head is a native of Los Banos, California. Upon graduation from Los Banos High School in 2006, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2010 with a B.S. in Information Technology and orders to Naval Nuclear Power School in

Charleston, SC. Upon completion of Power School, he completed Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT en route to Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit Ballston Spa, NY. After the successful completion at NNPTU Ballston Spa in March 2012, he re-ceived orders to USS Toledo (SSN 769), stationed out of Groton, CT.

Upon reporting to USS Toledo, he served as Damage Control Assistant for a seven month CENTCOM deployment. After a successful deployment, he relieved the Main Propulsion Assistant to manage Machinery Division throughout an eighteen month shipyard overhaul. During this time, he and his wife Michelle welcomed their first child

Aubrey.

In May 2013, he earned his Submarine Warfare Qualification and attended Prospective Nuclear Engineer Officer School (PNEO). After successfully completing PNEO, he returned to the USS Toledo to serve as the Assistant Engineer.

In March of 2015, he reported to the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, University of Utah where he is currently serving as Assistant Professor of Naval Science and Junior/Senior student advisor.

LT Head's awards include Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards) and various unit, service and campaign awards.



GySgt Levi Lazaro

He once again deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, taking part in Operation NATIONAL RESOLUTION from September 2008 to April 2009.

Shortly after his return from the second deployment, Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro reported to Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA in July 2009. Upon successfully completing the course, he obtained the Military Occupational Specialty of 0911, Drill Instructor.

Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro was assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment where he progressed through the ranks from Drill instructor, to Senior Drill Instructor, to Chief Drill Instructor. From September 2009 to March 2013, Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro trained over 1,000 recruits.

Following his successful special duty assignment, Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro was transferred to General Support Motor Transport (GSMT) Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 in March 2013. He has served as Platoon Sergeant, Company Gunnery Sergeant, and Company First Sergeant. Furthermore, he led the unit through the transition from GSMT to Motor Transport Company A, 1st

Transportation Support Battalion.

In August 2014 Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro moved to the Current Operations/Unit Movement Control Center Chief for Battalion S-3 section. During this time Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro directly facilitated the training for Battalion, Division, and MEB level exercises for 1st TSB. Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro also served as the Movement Control Center SNCOIC for a Major Prepositioning Exercise (MPF) located in Oman, Operation NATIVE FURY 16.

In May 2016, Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro was transferred to Officer Candidate School. Where he served as a Sergeant Instructor for Company C, Officer Candidate School. Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro reported as the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor for the University of Utah in September 2016.

Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), the Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon, and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (four awards).

Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro was born on 17 July 1982 in Chicago, IL. He graduated from high school in 2000 and reported to Marine Corps Recruit Training, San Diego, CA on 8 March 2002.

Following three weeks of Marine Combat Training, Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro reported for instruction at Motor Transport Operator's Course in Fort Leonard Wood, MS in July 2002. After graduation in September 2002, he reported for duty with 4th Marine Regiment in Okinawa, Japan.

In December 2005, Gunnery Sergeant Lazaro was transferred to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA. As a Motor Transport Operator, he deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 5-7 from September 2006 to March 2007.

