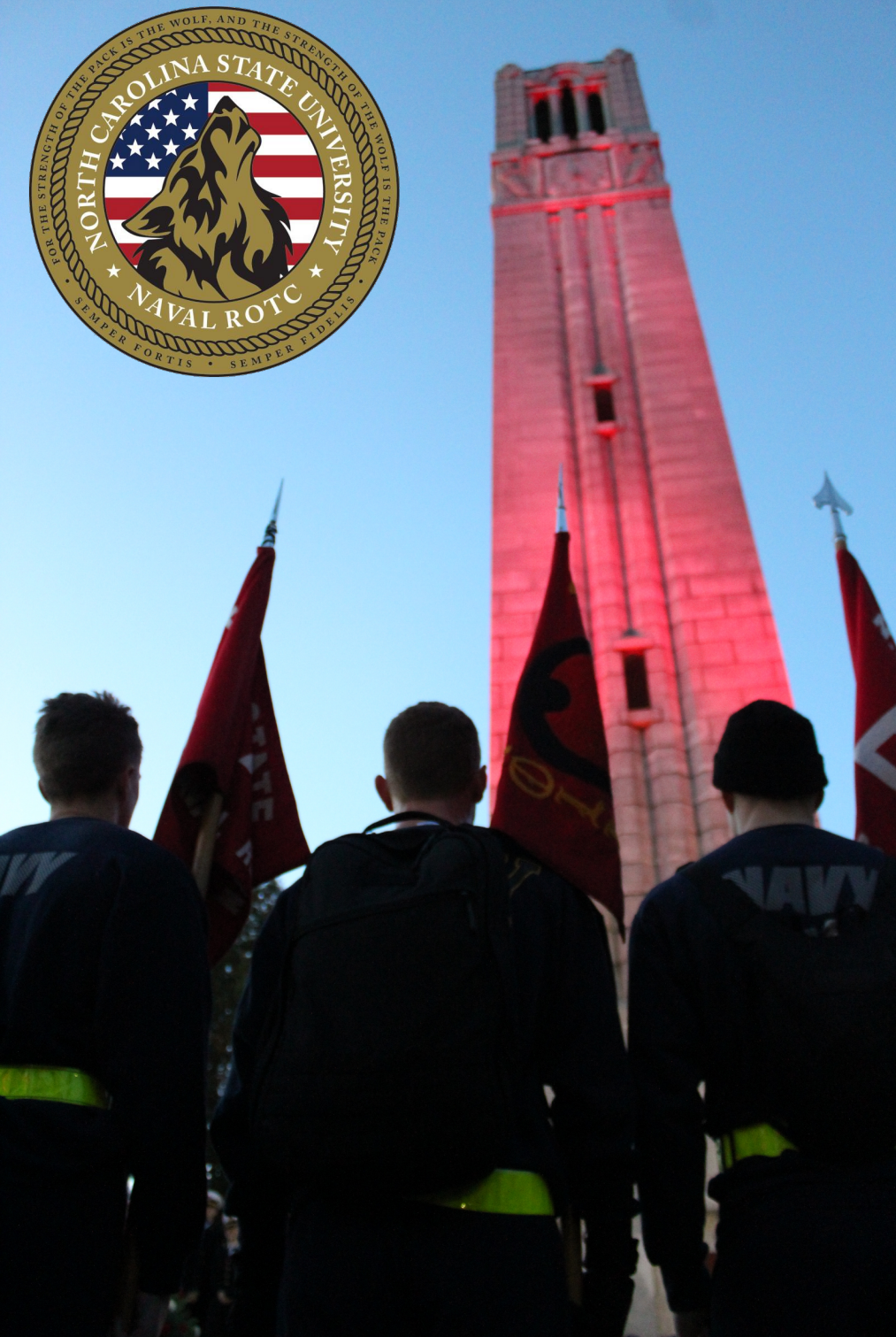


THE 1MC

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL



LETTER FROM BATTALION COMMANDER

First and foremost, I would like to welcome back all of our returning midshipmen and to welcome our new Freshmen to the battalion. It is my honor and privilege to be serving the midshipmen of the NCSU Naval ROTC Unit as Battalion Commander. I look forward to having a great semester with a lot of new experiences to be discovered. There are going to be some bumps in the road along the way, but these will only lead into greater learning experiences for our future leaders of the Navy.

Coming out of New Student Orientation, the Freshmen entered their first week motivated and ready to start their first semester as college students. In this first week back at NC State, some of the main events that took place were the Welcome Back Cookout and the first Naval Lab of the semester. During our cookout, I was pleased to see the upperclassmen making the effort to bridge the gap between 4/C and 1/C. There were stories to be told about everyone's summer cruises, laughs to be shared, and good food to be had. Our first lab consisted of me briefing the battalion about my intent for the semester, Battalion staff introductions, and remarks from Captain Stern.

After this first week, I am overjoyed with the results and the smooth start entering the new year. I can say with confidence that great things are going to take place as everyone starts to get back into the swing of things. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the semester and having the opportunity to work with everyone in the battalion this Fall.

- MIDN 1/C White



NSO

WELCOME FOURTH-CLASS!

New Student Orientation (NSO) is conducted before the start of every academic year primarily as a means of educating the incoming freshmen, or fourth-class (4/C) midshipmen on military life. Additionally, the freshmen are able to use this time to forge lasting professional relationships with each other and upper-class midshipmen (MIDN).

The new 4/C MIDN moved into

their dorms early on the morning of 14 August. They then moved to Stewart Theatre for introductions and met Captain Stern, the North Carolina Piedmont Region (NCPR) Commanding Officer. Parents later said their goodbyes and the 4/C departed to begin a long day of drill practice and medical and administrative paperwork. They also spent every second of downtime studying their Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS), and took a quiz before they went to bed.

The second day of NSO started in the dark with a motivating Physical Readiness Test (PRT) at 0600. The physically demanding test left many freshmen feeling worn out, but it gave them an understanding of the areas they need to work on over the coming year. Following a hearty meal and hour long break, the 4/C were shuttled to UNC (Chapel Hill) for a Customs and Courtesies brief by Gunnery Sergeant Bradley and SAPR Training by LT Heider and

LT Rorapough. The 4/C were then split into two groups with one group staying for drill with Gunnery Sergeant and the other group working on their uniforms and taking a PQS quiz. These rotations helped them prepare for the upcoming uniform inspection and gave them a heightened sense of readiness for the coming months in the Battalion. Movement back to NC State came next along with dinner and an informal question and answer with some of the upper-class midshipmen. They were then released for the night to ensure plenty of rest for the following day at Camp Butner.

Day 3 of NSO began with a bus ride arriving at Camp Butner at 0700. 4/C MIDN formed up and were given important safety briefs for the day. The new 4/C MIDN were then run through the obstacle course and taught the importance of hydration. Afterward, they ate chow and received another brief by the NCPR CO, Captain Stern. Following this, Midshipman 1/C Kakaley ran the 4/C



MIDN 2/C MCMELLON ASSISTS THE NEW 4/C DURING UNIFORM ISSUE

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through a 'boots and utes' PT session involving ammo can presses, bear crawls, push ups, and sprints. Next, a junior officer panel, composed of new ensigns, answered any questions the 4/C had about the ROTC program and commissioning. Leadership Reaction Courses followed, which tested the new 4/C's leadership abilities and showed the importance of teamwork in tactical situations. The 4/C midshipmen were then sworn in to signify their new positions and responsibilities. After the bus ride back to NCSU, the 4/C returned back to their dorms to prepare for the next day.

During the last day of NSO, the 4/C started their day with the swim qualification test. They were required to swim 100 meters, 25m of each stroke. They also completed a high jump, a five minute face-down float, and inflated a pair of NWU trousers. After this, they changed into their khakis for inspection. They were required to stand in formation and were inspected by squad leaders. Overall, the new 4/C performed exceptionally well and we all eagerly welcome them to the Battalion.

**- MIDN 1/C Ingram & McMellon,
MIDN 3/C Burcher & Ding**

FOURTH-CLASS PERSPECTIVES

PHYSICAL READINESS TEST

We woke up around 0530 the day of the PRT. I quickly changed into my 'green on green' Marine PT gear and headed to link up with my squad at the designated spot so we could head over to the Reynolds Coliseum together. I remember being fairly confident about the PRT, because I was a Marine Option after all, and why should I worry about the Navy's PT test? We lined up on the track for push-ups, almost automatically, I feel like pushups are more difficult than pull ups. I only knock out 50, but at least I am above the limit. Next, we hit crunches, unlike the Marine PFT these are actually all the way down, all the way up; I only knockout 70. At least I am again above the limit. The run comes around, I am fairly anxious but only need to come out under 12 minutes for 1.5 mile test. I am used to running 3 miles, so this is no

big deal. I start out fast and ease into a lax pace, easily attaining an 11:08. I link up with the other midshipmen round the track and am very excited that my first PRT is now over.

- MIDN 4/C Doolan

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On the morning of NSO, 14 August 2018, I woke up early in the morning, half terrified and half excited to finally begin this new chapter in my life. My parents, both prior-enlisted Marines, had been filling my head with stories of their days in bootcamp thirty years earlier. I put on my polo and khakis and packed all of my belongings into the car to get ready to move into my dorm. Before entering Thompson Hall, my parents insisted on taking numerous photos before we said our goodbyes. I signed my paperwork, then piled into the theatre with the rest of the new students and their families.

I was in awe as I sat in the front row watching the slideshow of the opportunities and events of which I would soon be a part. Watching the pictures change, I couldn't help but notice a recurring theme- within every photo of the Battalion there was a sense of family. I was then reassured that I would enjoy my time here at NC State and my time in the Battalion. We then heard plenty of introductions from the staff, and each inspired me. Gunnery Sergeant Bradley started his introduction, and I knew we were about to get screamed at. All of a sudden, on Gunnery Sergeant's command, we rush out of the theatre and quickly learn how to do our initial oath in front of our families. After our oath, we started into the real events of NSO.

These events included drill, briefs, the initial PRT/PFT, PQS tests, swim qualification, uniform inspections, and my personal favorite, a day at Camp Butner. Although the obstacle course was physically demanding, it was fun to test our physical limits and support each other while completing both the Obstacle Course and the physical training. However, through all the nervousness that came with PQS quizzes, and uniform inspections, I truly did not realize the friendships I had made through my time at NSO. Spending hours up at night with new friends, shining our shoes, and ironing our uniforms; all while talking about our hometowns and how we like it here at NC State. Perhaps this was my favorite part of NSO as a whole. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at NSO and the new friends I made through it.

-MIDN 4/C Bazan

COOKOUT

On Monday, 20 August 2018 the NC State NROTC hosted the annual Welcome Back Cookout in Pullen Park. The Cookout is an annual event with the purpose of providing returning midshipmen a genuine, welcoming atmosphere and 4/C midshipmen an informal, relaxed introduction to the Battalion. Each new midshipman is given a brief introduction from their respective Leading Petty Officers, mentioning their hometown, major



MIDN 4/C BAZAN INTRODUCES HERSELF TO THE BATTALION

and interests. In addition, the Commanding Officer of the Piedmont Region and the Midshipman Battalion Commander of the NC State NROTC unit gave their introductory remarks.

Battalion Commander Matthew White began by introducing himself to the incoming 4/C, briefly mentioning his anticipation for the semester to kick off and his excitement for the Battalion to get rolling. Midshipman White also expressed his enthusiasm for incorporating the new 4/C into the Battalion, making them a part of the team. Captain Stern then followed Midshipman White's remarks by setting his future goals for the upcoming year, namely his hope to interact with more students from NCSU. His goals then led him into his proposal of talking to NCSU midshipmen in his office about their summer cruises, hoping to receive more direct input from the NC State Battalion.

Following the speeches from leadership, the Battalion then began the picnic which included burgers, hot dogs, chips and more outdoor style foods. Once everyone was done



VARIOUS MIDN DISCUSS THE COMPLEX RULES OF SPIKE BALL

eating, they played ultimate frisbee and cornhole in Pullen Park, some games competitive and others just for fun. Throughout the course of the picnic, midshipmen also decided who had the best Hawaiian shirt. In the end, though, everyone was declared a winner. The event wrapped up at around 1300 with everyone having participated, thus setting the foundation for the NCSU Battalion to grow stronger as a cohesive unit.

-MIDN 2/C Krasny

FOURTH-CLASS PERSPECTIVE

The Cookout was different than what I had anticipated. After NSO, I was expecting it to be extremely formal and thought that we would have to follow standard NROTC customs like we had in previous days. Instead, I found the Cookout refreshing. I saw the upperclassmen in a way that I hadn't seen them before; many that I did not know came up and started talking to me and giving me advice on both the Navy and academics. One thing that I found different at the cookout was that the 4/C Midshipmen got food first. In marching band, it was always seniors first, then juniors, and down the line. The event email detailed a lot of what to expect, but seeing it in action is different than reading it on paper. I am glad that I made it through NSO and that I will continue my progress in NROTC and I can't wait to be a part of something so important.

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-MIDN 4/C Dale



FIRST LAB

22 AUGUST

The lab began with a welcome back speech from our new Battalion CO, MIDN White, and introductions from the rest of his staff for this semester. New 4/C members of the Battalion were introduced to the upperclassmen that they had not met yet and officially began their journey as college students.

Throughout the lab, the battalion reviewed many of the policies and general housekeeping items to get



BATTALION COMMANDER AND
COMMANDING OFFICER PLAN



BATTALION COMMAND MASTER
CHIEF DISCUSSES LOGISTICS

everyone geared up for the semester. MIDN White spoke about how he wants to continue to better not only himself throughout the semester, but the whole Battalion as well. His biggest point was that he wants everyone to be able to go through each day and “smile and be happy.” We are all very fortunate for what we have and he wants each member to be able to see that and take advantage of each day. The pace has been set for the semester and we are all excited to continue on for the rest of the semester!

-MIDN 1/C Boisse

On the first day of class, the Battalion conducted the first lab of the year at Riddick Hall. The Battalion was briefed on various upcoming events including football game sign-ups and academics. After the staff briefings, Captain Stern took questions from the midshipmen and told some of his favorite ‘sea-stories’ from his time in the fleet. With this being my first lab, it was very insightful to hear from Captain Stern and the Battalion leadership and get a glimpse into the inner workings of the Battalion. This was a great start to the semester and I look forward to future labs.

-MIDN 4/C Fore



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