



Welcome back to the 1MC newsletter as we exit the fall semester of 2019. In this issue, you will find articles about the MAD game, Marine FEX, the Norfolk Trip, PQS Boards, Fall Ball, and the 1MC MIDN Spotlight. This has been a semester of change for the NC State Battalion, from the new active duty staff to the induction of the 4/C through PQS boards. We have had a productive year of training, and look forward to 2020 as we continue to build our program in order to produce the Navy and Marine Corps' finest officers.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CO

Shipmates,

This is my first opportunity to ‘speak’ on this 1MC so let me take a brief moment to introduce myself. I come from a career in submarines (to include being a Plankowner of USS NORTH CAROLINA (SSN 777)!) and am honored to have the responsibility now of preparing future leaders for the challenges of leadership in the maritime services. I arrived at NCSU in June 2019 from Pearl Harbor, and have absolutely loved it here so far.

As our nation transitions to great power competition, while still engaged in defeating extremists, it will be the Navy and Marine Corps – America’s away team – at the front lines with potential adversaries, and we will need great leaders to remain on top. Lucky for us all, we have a team of dedicated Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and MECEPs ready to take on the challenges ahead. I have centered our collective efforts in four key areas: Academic Excellence, Leader Development, Physical Readiness / Total Health, and University Engagement. Together, these priorities will fulfill the mission of NROTC – to provide well educated, trained officers to the Fleet who are ready to lead in the 21st century.

I have met a number of NCSU Alumni out in the Fleet, and every one

of them spoke so highly of their experience in college. I am here now, and I can see why they loved it. The current battalion is doing great, and I know they are looking forward to joining the officer ranks so they can bring their NCSU experience forward to the Fleet.

Go Pack!

CAPT Andrew Hertel
Commanding Officer Navy ROTC
North Carolina State University



Alumni Spotlight

2017 graduate LTJG Christopher Maginnis, on the USS Normandy, was featured on the Navy Times Facebook page, participating in an International Maritime Exercise 2019 alongside a sailor from Pakistan's navy.



If you are interested in reconnecting with the Battalion, please send an email to MIDN 1/C Alec Hunter with your name, service (Marine Corps/Navy), and your graduation year.

nrotc.Wolfpack.alumni@gmail.com

MIDN SPOTLIGHT

Ben Hardy

Outside of schoolwork and activities within the unit, I am a member of a fraternity, enjoy playing sports, and going to NC State sporting events. Taking part in these extracurriculars gives me a break from the daily grind of ROTC and school, allowing for some fun and relaxation with friends.

I am a member of the fraternity Beta Theta Pi. I joined because I was looking for a group of guys that would push me to be my best as well as have an opportunity to take on additional leadership roles. Since joining Beta last spring, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Kai committee, as well as the education committee. Kai has been especially helpful for my growth as a leader, because I am responsible for holding my fellow brothers accountable for their actions and taking appropriate corrective action. I have also enjoyed my time on the education committee because I have been able to teach new members about the fraternity's history and values. I look forward to finding new leadership opportunities within Beta and possibly running for Vice President in the future.

I love playing sports in my free time, my favorite of which is golf. A group of friends and I enjoy playing at River Ridge Golf Club whenever we can. Golf is an addicting game that requires a level head and a great deal of patience in order to avoid succumbing to the game's inherent frustrations. I am pleased to say my GSGA handicap has dropped to an 11.1, but I am shoot-



ing towards getting below a 10. I play golf for the challenge it presents, and most of all the funny moments that always take place on the course.

I always have a great time going to NC State sporting events. Football games are great for the tailgates, but the team isn't very good this year so it has not been the most exciting sport to watch. Basketball on the other hand is probably the most electric sport on campus, especially when UNC or Duke is playing at PNC. However, my favorite sporting event to attend is wrestling, because I used to wrestle in high school, and it is a way for me to continue to stay engaged in the sport. NC State's team is currently 6-0 and ranked 7th in the country, so they are very fun to watch. Life isn't always easy being an NC State sports fan, but it is always great to take a break from classes and cheer on the Pack.

I believe that being involved on campus is very important to my development as a leader and makes me a more well rounded person.

MIDN 3/C Hardy

MARINE FEX

On Saturday, November 2, Alpha Company mustered at 0415 in Reynolds Coliseum to conduct a half-day Field Exercise in order to prepare for the rigors of Officer Candidate School. The day began with a six-mile hike around campus. I had the chance to act as the platoon sergeant after the first three-mile increment, during which I quickly learned the importance of correctly counting the candidates and rifles after some corrective action from the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI). We finished the six-mile hike around 0700 and had a half hour for chow and water. Immediately we moved to Pullen Park with our rifles and assault packs to begin our Small Unit Leadership Exercise (SULE) rotations.

It was the first time any of us had ever commanded a squad level SULE, so there was a steep learning curve in the beginning. However, as the day progressed, we began to work more as a cohesive unit as our order briefings and execution improved. From this exercise, I learned how important the warning order is. If the warning order is well written, then the rest of the order should be very easy to jot down and plan.

I thought the addition of basic land navigation into our SULE's was an especially helpful aspect of the training. MIDN Bazan, our navigator, executed her duties efficiently and effectively. Throughout the day we also realized the importance of decentralized leadership through the fireteam leaders. We began to realize that the fireteam leaders' ability to control and organize their people had a direct correlation upon the overall score of the squad leader, and completion of the mission.



I really enjoyed this field exercise and am very grateful for the opportunity to practice before OCS. I think I have a much better understanding of what an OCS SULE will look like, and I am very excited to use what I have learned this summer.

Captain Stanich, Gunnery Sergeant Bradley, and the MECEPs have done an excellent job ensuring we have all of the tools we need for success at OCS, and I look forward to learning more about leading Marines.

MIDN 2/C Doolan

FALL BALL

On Friday, November 15, the NROTC Piedmont Consortium came together to celebrate the 244th birthday of the Navy and Marine Corps at the annual Fall Ball event. It was a fun-filled evening consisting of socializing, dancing, eating, and a motivating ceremony conducted by Captain Hertel and guest speaker Major General Cederholm.

The night began with Midshipmen and active duty from Duke, NC State, and Chapel Hill coming together at the Durham Convention Center to socialize. This allowed Midshipmen to build relationships with their future fellow officers and exchange words with their active duty leadership in a non-academic setting .

Shortly after, social hour ended and the ceremonies began. The ceremony began with sword drill and the presentation of colors. Afterwards, Captain Hertel and Major General Cederholm took center stage for the ceremonial cake cutting. Two slices of cake were cut and given to both the eldest and youngest Marines in the room, Major General Cederholm and MIDN Crider, symbolizing the passing of future responsibility from one generation to the next. The official party then presented the colors and left the stage, concluding the official ceremonies for the night.

Following the ceremony, a delicious three course meal was served to the eager guests, and a brief birthday message from the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps was played. CAPT Hertel then took the stage to address the Consortium, recognize the graduating seniors, and introduce the guest speaker, Major General Cederholm, who delivered a stirring speech full of wisdom, inspiration, and sea stories.

Following his speech, our Guest of Honor was presented with a plaque from the NROTC Piedmont Consortium thanking him for taking time to help celebrate this important occasion. This honor was presented to him by the Battalion Commanders from each of the three units.

As the formalities of the evening came to a close, the dancing and festivities were just beginning. Music and good cheer filled the air as feet hit the dance floor, and everyone showed off their finest dance moves. Overall, the night was a great success, and everyone from Midshipman to General had a pleasant evening.

Happy 244th Navy and Marine Corps!

MIDN 3/C Lieske



MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME

On the 10th of October, the Wolfpack Battalion gathered at Carter Finley Stadium to attend the Military Appreciation Day (MAD) Football Game. The MAD Game is an annual event that allows NC State Athletics, the Wolfpack Football Team, and the ROTC units to come together in order to show our support for active duty military and our veterans.

Practice was held earlier that afternoon with the Athletics staff to prepare for the special roles Midshipmen filled during the game. Coca-Cola was kind enough to host a tailgate with delicious barbeque for the participating NROTC Midshipmen and local veterans and their families. Battalion members manned the Walk of Champions to welcome veterans and honorees into the stadium, and a conglomeration of ROTC Cadets and Midshipmen formed a pre-game fan tunnel to help welcome the football team onto the field before the game.



During the Second Quarter, a contingent of Midshipmen had the honor of taking a turn on the pushup board, and with impeccable form, executed pushups every time the Wolfpack scored. When half time began, the NC State Marching Band performed a rousing medley of each branch's Service Songs. The Band concluded with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and Midshipmen and Cadets exited the tunnel to unfurl a giant American Flag that encompassed the entirety of the football field. MIDN Krasny and MIDN Wheatley were named the Navy and Marine Corps Honor Midshipmen, respectively, and were recognized during the Third Quarter.

When not on the field or performing special duties, members of the NC State ROTC and student veterans were seated behind the end-zone on the stadium's North side, where every touch-



down by the football team was celebrated with fervent school spirit. When asked about her opinion on Naval ROTC's participation in the MAD Game, MIDN Peterson responded "I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to show my support for our active duty military and our veterans!" With a final score of 16-10 and a Wolfpack victory, the MAD Game was an outstanding evening.



**MIDN 2/C La
Pointe**

NORFOLK Navigation Simulator

On November 8, myself and eight other Midshipmen embarked on a day trip to the Norfolk Navigation, Seamanship, and Shiphandling Trainer (NSST). Our day started dark and early at 0430 in Reynolds Coliseum where we left in the duty van to drive to Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. Upon arriving, we entered the NSST building and received a brief introduction from the staff. We were quickly introduced to the simulator and its various components such as the helm, radar, and radio system, as well as the projected environment in which the simulator immerses you. We were also given instructions on how the Conning Officer is supposed to communicate with the Helmsman and Lee Helm to properly maneuver the ship.

Once the simulator was running

and scenarios were playing out, commands and responses were quickly exchanged on the simulated bridge. Each person was given the opportunity to either be the Conning Officer—giving standard commands and driving the ship—or to be the Helmsman and steer the ship in accordance with the Conn's commands. The scenarios executed ranged from steering around buoys in the open ocean, to rescuing a man overboard, to a time trial that required the Conning Officer to safely weave in and out of oncoming ships. MIDN Starr was able to successfully maneuver an *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer through eight ships in under five minutes.



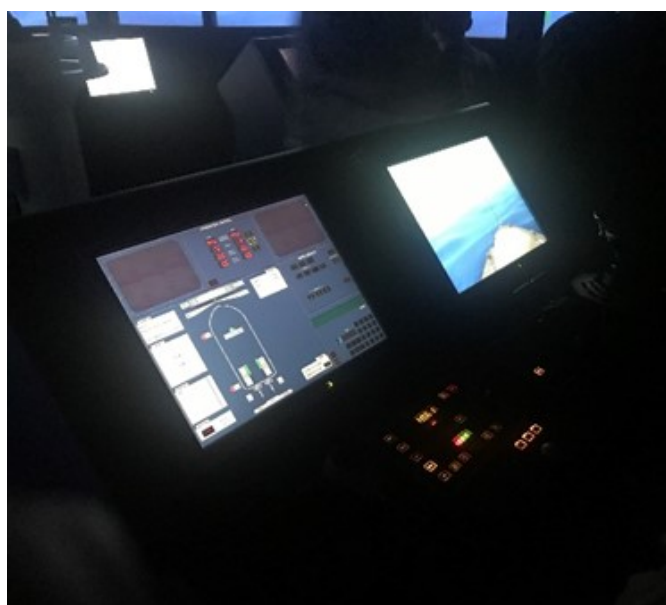
When we arrived back from a lunch break at the NEX, we received a brief on ship formations and how to execute them in coordination with other ships in the simulator. From here, we broke up into groups of 4 and 5, each controlling two separate simulated ships. In my simulator, each person was given a different role, either Conning Officer, Helmsman, Lee Helm, Radio/Radar Operator, or a Navigator drawing maneuvering boards.

Orders to execute a specific formation were sent to the Radio Operator, which were then planned by the Navigator and Conning Officer. Once plans were confirmed, the Conning Officer delivered commands to the Helmsman to execute them. Roles were exchanged between the Mid-



shipmen as new orders came in for each formation. After about 3 hours of running through formations, we were debriefed and left the NSST.

I gained a substantial sum of knowledge and training value on this trip by not only watching and listening to those who were more experienced than me, but also by gaining first-hand experience attempting to drive a ship myself. I learn best through trial and error and hands-on experiences, so the simulator provided an excellent opportunity for me to immerse myself in a ship-like environment and see the various components that go into operating it. I plan on returning for more experience and practice when the Battalion plans its next trip to Norfolk.



MIDN 3/C Ridge

PQS BOARDS

At 0525 on Wednesday, 6 November, the 23 4/C Midshipmen mustered at Riddick Hall to conduct their Personal Qualification Standard (PQS) Boards. First-year Midshipmen in our Battalion spend their first three and a half months preparing for these boards, and are eventually tested in a culminating event on the skills and knowledge they have accumulated over their first semester in the NROTC program. If they pass, they are officially inducted into the Battalion.

The PQS boards are modeled off the PQS Boards conducted for naval officers in the fleet. The boards were structured and organized by MIDN 2/C La Pointe. Each board consisted of five board members: one OC/MECEP, one 1/C Midshipman, one 2/C Midshipman, one Marine Option Midshipman, and one 3/C Midshipman to escort the 4/C into the board room. The board began with the 4/C reporting to the senior member of the board, followed by a service khaki inspection. The khaki inspection was worth 15% of the overall grade for the board. Following the inspection, the Midshipmen were asked 21 questions and were graded on their correctness and bearing. The questions consisted of 65% and bearing was the final 20% of the overall score.

The 4/C Midshipmen were

first introduced to PQS shortly after their completion of New Student Orientation. The 4/C were given a PQS Book, a nine chapter binder containing all the knowledge they would need to prepare for these boards. Along with the PQS Book, the Introduction to Naval Science class curriculum taught the contents of the PQS Book and presented the 4/C with weekly quizzes to test their understanding of each of the chapters. Before all of the quizzes, the 4/C were required to conduct weekly PQS checks with their respective squad leader and Department Senior Chief or Company 1st Sergeant to ensure they were proficient in the content from NS 110 and their PQS Books.



The first session of PQS Boards was conducted on 6 November during Naval Science Lab in Riddick Hall. Out of the 23 4/C who participated in the boards, only 13 of them passed the first session. For the 10 midshipmen who did not pass the first session, a second session was held the following week at lab.

On 13 November, the 10 4/C formed up at Riddick for the second session of boards in service khakis. Thankfully, all of them passed the second time around, and every 4/C received their Battalion PT shirts, a defining moment for every Midshipman as it is the moment they finally are fully welcomed into the Wolfpack Battalion.



MIDN 4/C Melcher



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