

THE 1MC

FEBRUARY ISSUE



JUMPING BACK IN

After a long winter break, the Company started off the semester strong with PT, Weekly Naval Science Labs, and many special events including the Military Appreciation Game, PQS Boards, a trip to Jacksonville, and more. In January, the MIDN took time to get situated in their new classes, and the 4/C prepared for their boards. We began with a change of command ceremony,

and the biggest change you will see in this issue is that we are now referred to as a "Company" rather than a Battalion. This change was made to better portray the size of our group in relation to the fleet. In this issue, you'll see many of our events through the month of February. Enjoy!



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**FEBRUARY
SPRING 2019**



MIDN 1/C White turns over the Company Commander billet to MIDN 1/C Henkel

NEW LEADERSHIP

COMMAND TRIAD

OTHER STAFF

- **Operations Officer:**
GySgt Manuel
- **Assistant Operations Officer:**
MIDN 2/C Verrico
- **Logistics Officer:**
OC Goh
- **Physical Training Officer:**
MIDN 2/C Stoops
- **1st Platoon Commander:**
MIDN 2/C Hunter
- **2nd Platoon Commander:**
MIDN 2/C Alden
- **3rd Platoon Commander:**
MIDN 2/C Perry
- **Academics Officer:**
MIDN 1/C McMellon
- **Adjutant:**
MIDN 2/C Krasny



MIDN 1/C Kakaley hands awards to Company CO, MIDN 1/C Henkel

- **Company Commander:**
MIDN 1/C Henkel
- **Company Executive Officer:**
MIDN 1/C Ingram
- **Company 1st Sergeant:**
MIDN 1/C Kakaley

PQS BOARDS

PQS boards are considered a rite of passage and show how the 4/C are proficient in basic Naval and Marine knowledge to be considered viable as an officer in the United States Military. Boards are held to evaluate how well 4/C know the information and to make sure they are not sent into the fleet without knowledge of basic military procedure and identifiers for the Navy. The boards are held during lab and MIDN report into a board of four members and answer the questions asked. There are a total of three questions asked per person on the board that are for credit, while a couple of bearing questions are thrown in to test the ability to think on their feet without breaking bearing. MIDN report out when the questions are finished, then return and are told their score and whether they passed or failed.

Boards are scored by the upperclass members, and passing is considered an 80 percent or above.

The questions could be asked from any part of the PQS book given to MIDN at the start of their 4/C year. This means that all of the main components of the book should be memorized. The book has information ranging from the types of ships, aircrafts, and submarines that are in the Navy, to the codes of conduct and Marine ethos. Many 4/C made flashcards to ensure that they knew the information. The days leading up to the boards were filled with mock boards and group study sessions. The information was extensive but becoming one step closer to being a Naval officer was worth it.

MIDN 4/C WOOTEN



MIDN 2/C Welsh and OC Bynum score PQS boards.



Above: MIDN 4/C Hernandez sits for his board.



Left: MIDN 4/C Ridge



MIDN 4/C Kukura, Belcher, Pham, Shellabarger, and Fore with their new Company shirts after passing the first round of PQS boards.

The military profession often requires that individuals make intelligent decisions while facing difficult situations. As a means to prepare MIDN for the mental demands placed on officers in the fleet, Personnel Qualification Standards boards, more commonly referred to as PQS boards, are held for the 4/C MIDN. This event not only represents the culmination of a semester's worth of studying and preparation, but it also signifies the entrance of the 4/C MIDN into the Company. By having the 4/C perform this task in a stressful environment, their confidence is boosted.

During PQS boards, 1/C, 2/C and OCs proctor the board while 3/C support the event by acting as ushers for the 4/C. During the board, the 4/C are expected to come with exemplary uniforms and military appearance. Furthermore, they are expected to come prepared with knowledge of the Personnel Qualification Standards from their 4/C year. The required knowledge includes, but is not limited to, surface warfare operations and platforms, submarine weapons, Marine Corps history, special warfare information, leadership ideologies, officership, and military organizational structure. Board members have the unique opportunity to evaluate the readiness of the 4/C. After successful completion of a board the board members presented the 4/C with the Company physical training shirt. Prior to PQS boards, 4/C attended PT in service PT gear while other MIDN and Officer Candidates wore the Company PT shirt. Earning the Company PT shirt after PQS boards symbolically integrates the 4/C MIDN into the wolfpack unit.

Though some did not pass on their first attempt at the PQS boards, the failure offered insight into areas of weakness and provided opportunity for improvement. Congratulations 4/C and welcome to the Company!

-MIDN 1/C BLANKENSHIP

MILITARY APPRECIATION BASKETBALL GAME

FREE THROW COMPETITION

Against Army and Air Force ROTC, MIDN 3/C Duke (Navy) and MIDN 3/C Olson (Marine) competed to win an NC State prize pack. MIDN Duke came out on top with 7 shots made in 30 seconds!



To kickoff the Military Appreciation Day (MAD) game vs Virginia Tech, MIDN and student veterans from the other branches were responsible for leading the basketball team through the fan tunnel while carrying our respective military flags. This was a volunteer event and along with it came free basketball tickets to watch the game. I enjoy volunteering for positions like this at events that honor our military because it makes me proud to be entering the Marine Corps. It's encouraging to see so much support for our military in the stands and even on the team. Games like these are

something everyone can come together to support no matter which team you're there to cheer for. It also helps to build camaraderie between the different branches and gives us as MIDN an opportunity to interact with the other branches of ROTC. Watching the game afterwards was also fun despite the very minimal amount of scoring that occurred. Being a MIDN in college is great because of things like this that allow us to socialize and really get the entire college experience as well as train for our futures in the military.

MIDN 3/C WARD

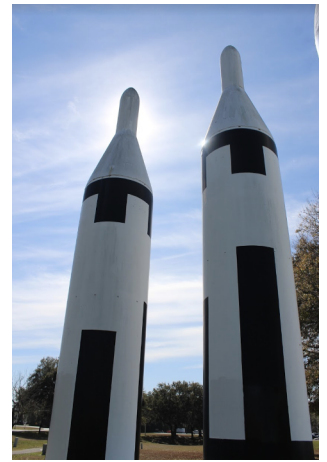


JACKSONVILLE TRIP

DAY 1

On 6 FEB, a group of MIDN and Officer Candidates traveled from Raleigh to the Jacksonville, FL area. We visited Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP-30), a Fleet Replacement Squadron at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. At VP-30, the group toured one of the squadron's P-8A Poseidon aircraft and learned about the mission-set and capabilities of the platform from Lieutenant Ibarra, a Naval Flight Officer, and Lieutenant Montero, a Naval Aviator. Later in the afternoon, the group met Lieutenant Commander Calhoun, an alumni of the NC State NROTC Program, and learned about the MQ-4C Triton, an unmanned aerial vehicle that the Navy intends to use for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance in the near future.

-MIDN 3/C DURKIN



DAY 2

We started off the day in King's Bay, with a brief from CDR Kaper about submarines. After the sub brief, we were in the trusty hands of Chief Stoner. He was in charge of damage control training for the submarine wet trainer. We were instructed on how to patch holes before entering the practical trainer. We came, we saw, we would've drowned if it was real. Although we only somewhat patched the holes, we had a lot of fun while doing it.

Next was a picture in front of missiles as LT Whitmore told us about the different types. Turns out that we share missile knowledge with the Brits. Who knew we were so close!

From the missile display, we left for the Virtual Submarine Simulator, run by LT Callagher. The simulator showed true and relative bearing as we looked around (on the surface of the water) in the virtual world. LT Whitmore then took us to get a tour on the USS Maryland. After our tour of the submarine, the captain brought us to the wardroom to discuss his personal experience as a submarine officer.

-MIDN 2/C MCALISTER



DAY 3

On 8 FEB, the day began with a briefing on the Anti-submarine Warfare capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon and sonobuoys; Mr. Leinhauser, the speaker, demonstrated sonobuoy usage and strategy as well as displaying collected sonar readings. The group then headed to Squadron HSM-72 and LT Hinz gave a tour of a MH60R Seahawk. Later in the day in order to learn more about Pilots, NFO and Aircrewman training, the group toured the Aviation Survival Training Center. Some of the training previewed were survival first aid, low oxygen environments, parachute

landings, and the crown jewel, Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer, colloquially known as the Helo Dunker, which trains pilots and crew in the proper way to exit an airframe that has crash-landed in the water. Afterwards, the group visited the beach on Naval Station Mayport for some R&R and were lucky enough to witness the USS South Dakota (SSN 790), America's newest submarine, pull into port. As the final fleet familiarization exercise of the day, the group boarded C-Tractor 22, one of Naval Station Mayport's harbor tugs; the group was afforded the unique opportunity

to see every ship in port, up close from the water. The tug's engineer Roosevelt Williams was happy to give those interested an in depth look at the life of a tug operator.



-MIDN 3/C LA POINTE

DAY 4

On 9 FEB, MIDN participating in the Jacksonville fleet familiarization trip spent their final day at the Naval Station in Mayport. Our Surface Warfare Officers, LT Watson and LT Rorapaugh, were able to coordinate three tours for us that day. In addition to the tours, a few enlisted sailors from the USS South Dakota (SSN790), a fast attack submarine we saw pull into port on Thursday 8FEB, joined the MIDN for the first two tours.



The first tour took place at 0930 on the USS Milwaukee (LCS-5).



The tour guide was a fresh Ensign working on his qualification for his SWO pin. He took us on a tour of the ship, through the hangar bay, underwater mission deck, staterooms, and the bridge. We then moved onto their next tour onboard the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG116) where we viewed the hangar bay, bridge,

and forecastle of the ship. Here we checked out the 5-inch gun and Vertical Launch System. We ended our day with a tour of the USS Philippine Sea (CG58) where the SWOs from NC State gave us a tour of the engine room, hangar bay and the wardroom where they hold the ashes of Neil Armstrong. Before Armstrong died, he wished to be buried at sea due to the fact that before his time as an astronaut, he was a Navy fighter pilot.

-MIDN 4/C SPARGO

NOTRE DAME LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 24th Naval Leadership Weekend was a two day conference held at Notre Dame University by their NROTC unit. The goal of the conference was to supply MIDN with relevant anecdotes from veteran service members that invoked thoughts about the basic principles of leadership. This experience was very engaging and supplied me with what I believe will be a lasting impression on my ideology of leadership. The speakers at the conference included Fleet Master Chief (FLTCM) Richard O’Rawe, Captain (CAPT) William Mountford, a Junior Officer panel, Rear Admiral (RDML) Jeffery Jablon, Dr. Dan Lindley, Vice Admiral (VADM) John Bird, Ret., Major General (Maj Gen) Erik Fick, Ret., and Lieutenant General (LtGen) Sattler, Ret. Each of the speakers brought their own experiences to the table to teach us the lessons they learned in their career and allowed us to question how the leadership principles we knew would hold up in their situation.

The weekend started with FLTCM O’Rawe. He spoke of four key things that he “loses sleep over” and challenged us to

keep in mind when we make it to the fleet. His first concern was “Great Power Competition”. He spoke of China in particular and how their economy and efficiency is quickly allowing them the make up ground between us and them. He also mentioned that confrontations have occurred between a rising power and a ruling power 15 times in the last 15 years, and 75% of these confrontations have resulted in war. With the statistics of the past he urged us to embrace the new styles of warfighting (cyber) and to keep pushing to grow and expand as a Navy. His second concern was “Sailors' technical proficiency.” He told us how the role of the sailor has transitioned from being experts of their equipment to instead being jacks of all trades and averting their attention from being technical experts. Specifically he said having other obligations to physical fitness and volunteering have cut into their ability to know a machine in and out. Because of this, maintenance work is being given to contractors more often. His last concern was “Us”, the Midshipmen. He described the sailors as “being the best at what they do and they do it with a

swagger”. His concern was that in order to give sailors the best opportunities to advance and excel at their jobs we, as future JOs, need to hit the ground running because sailors expect complete proficiency upon arrival. After hearing this concern it really hit me that this whole program is not about us. Sometimes the training and messages we receive in NROTC get lost in translation and come off as being about ourselves. Forgetting about the real reason we are in this program is understandable, seeing as we are here to get a degree and for the majority of the time are only concerned with our own situation. However, I believe that moving to the fleet will be a huge culture shock in many ways, but for this reason especially. It helps to keep in mind that the reason you are learning anything in this program is not for yourself, but to give your Sailors and Marines the most prepared JO possible.

-MIDN 1/C CHAUNDY



4/C PERSPECTIVE

As a 4/C, I have had few NROTC experiences so far. At the Naval Leadership Weekend at Notre Dame, the majority of the other MIDN had previously attended CORTRAMID, along with their other summer cruises. By going to this event, I was able to interact with MIDN from other schools and with current officers in the Navy and Marine Corps outside of our Company.

As the title of the weekend hints, the speeches focused on leadership. One of the speakers I found most intriguing to listen to was CAPT William Mountford. As a previous junior officer on the USS Vincennes, he spoke about ethics in leadership. After the USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian commercial plane, there was a large investigation regarding the reason behind the incident. It came down to two key reasons: human error and system malfunctions. Looking at the human error side of the situation, CAPT Mountford brought up lessons that he learned from being part of such an experience that he thought would be good for future officers to understand. The lesson that stuck out from his presentation the most for me was to “tactfully question decision makers if you feel they’re wrong,” which he titled “courageous followership.” While it is always important to listen to and obey those above you, CAPT Mountford pointed out that as a junior officer, it is part of your job to do what is right,

and sometimes this means to question your seniors if there is *good reason* to do so. One should not do so all of the time, but in certain situations it could be beneficial and show true leadership and ethical character. While there were key lessons I took from each speaker, this one stuck out to me the most because it is something that is challenging to accomplish, but extremely important.

-MIDN 4/C KELLERMAN



GUEST SPEAKER CAPTAIN KROL

CAPT KROL (RIGHT) WITH GYSGT MANUEL (LEFT).
GYSGT MANUEL COORDINATED THE BRIEF AS CAPT
KROL WAS FORMERLY HIS PLATOON COMMANDER.

For the 13 FEB Naval Science Lab, the Company had the privilege of listening to Captain Nicholas Krol, USMC, speak on the topic of Navy/Marine Corps Integration. While most of the Company had learned about the individual components of Navy and Marine Corps forces through our Personnel Qualification Standards in our respective 4/C years, Captain Krol spent this time tying it all together so we could see the big picture. Specifically, he focused on the structure and operations of joint force operations, with emphasis on the Navy/Marine Corps team. Captain Krol took the Company through the various organizations that make up a joint amphibious force, explaining the composition and chain of command for each level. He tied in his own experiences and the knowledge he gained from both his time deployed with an Amphibious Ready Group and from his current assignment at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic in Little Creek, VA, as a course manager. To cap off this discussion, Captain Krol shared more on his observations and experiences on what to expect in the fleet, as well as sharing some of his wisdom on leading Sailors and Marines.

-MIDN 2/C OLSON



CAPT Krol (right) with GySgt Manuel (left).
GySgt Manuel coordinated the brief as CAPT
Krol was formerly his Platoon Commander.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
RECEIVING ALUMNI
UPDATES, PLEASE CONTACT
MIDN TYLER HARITAN AT
TZHARITA@NCSU.EDU



Contact Us
103 Dunn Ave
Reynolds Coliseum
M-F 0800-1600
(919) 515-8931

