

»»» SPRING 2023 «««

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NC STATE NAVAL ROTC

INTRODUCTION

By: MIDN 2/C
Tavia Copening



After a much needed winter break, the North Carolina State NROTC Battalion sprung back into action, starting out the semester strong by resuming war games and keeping standards high with PT and drill. Over the semester the Battalion was represented by the drill team in both New Orleans and Ohio. We also practiced our skills with virtual war games in lab. Included are perspectives from a fourth class midshipman as well as an officer candidate and their experiences this semester. Keep reading to learn more about what exciting things we did this semester!



CONTENTS

➤➤➤	Becoming a First Class.....	2
➤➤➤	The Fourth Class Experience.....	3
➤➤➤	Wargames - CMO.....	4 & 5
➤➤➤	OC Spotlight.....	6 & 7
➤➤➤	Drill Competitions.....	8 & 9

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BECOMING A FIRST CLASS

By: MIDN 2/C Cate
Westbrook



I am excited to begin my final year as a midshipman and learn more about leadership as the Battalion XO. Leadership labs, naval science classes, and billets over the past three years have taught me a lot about leadership, but having a billet like XO will come with leadership challenges and lessons that I have never dealt with before. Our unit has prepared me well, and I am eager to use my knowledge during my time as XO and as I continue into the fleet. My time in college has flown by, and service selection is quickly approaching, which is daunting but extremely exciting. I look forward to finding out which community I will spend my naval career in, and even more excited to get to the fleet and learn more. I am excited to welcome the new 4/C to our unit, as I vividly remember being in their shoes and having upperclassmen take me under their wing. I am anticipating a great Fall semester as XO, full of learning and fun, and I am thrilled to see what the future holds for myself and my classmates with service selection on the horizon.



THE FOURTH CLASS EXPERIENCE

By: MIDN 4/C
Brynn Elliot



As a college programmer without military experience, coming to New Student Orientation (NSO) in August 2022 was my first look into the Navy. My fellow 4/C attended New Student Indoctrination (NSI), a 2.5-week course that takes place onboard Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Great Lakes, IL. They learned military bearing, basic drill movements, discipline, and endured daily physical training there. For myself, I did not know how even to salute correctly. Thus, my transition from high school to college was more extreme than others. Similarly, going through the Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) with no prior memorization, such as the Eleven General Orders, challenged my time management skills and increased my memorization skills. Learning how to retain information along with the STEM classes on my schedule quickly built a foundation for higher thinking and problem-solving. Ever since that first weekend at Camp Lejeune in the summer heat, all of the 4/C became a family. Exchanging humorous stories or the hotspots on our feet made me feel like I was part of something. Spending extra time together, like a movie night, gave us the space to get to know each other even more. Having activities to look forward to made me feel more welcome and made me love being part of the Wolfpack. Participating in Monday's physical training pushed me to greatness, with having fun along the way. Joining Navy ROTC was the best decision I've ever made – there is no greater feeling than knowing you have a place somewhere and are something.



Wargames - CMO

By MIDN 2/C Gregory
Pisculli

➤➤➤ Command: Modern Operations (CMO) is a military simulation software available on Steam. It uses all publicly accessible information on modern naval and ground platforms assimilated in the built in database to create a realistic war scenario. It enables you to simulate every military engagement from post World War II to the present day and beyond. The scale is primarily tactical/operational, although strategic scale operations are also possible. It provides us with a birds-eye view of an evolving naval warfare conflict. CMO has also been used by real world militaries to plan strategies for attack. Most notably, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) used CMO and super computers with artificial intelligence to plan a possible invasion of Taiwan.



➤➤➤ At our battalion we use it to more fully understand the broad scale of naval warfare and the consequences that come along with it. We split up into groups of 6-10 people including one white cell in charge of operating the computer and software. We use a modified chain of command to pass orders to the whitecell and overall control an entire fleet. Some of the positions in the chain of command are Fleet Commander, Air Boss, Sub Commander and Surface Commander.

Wargames - CMO (Cont.)

➤➤➤ Since fall of 2022 we have been using CMO as a Leadership Lab activity and have noticed increased involvement and knowledge about modern military strategies and tactics from participating MIDN. Our final battle problem of last semester was a fictional but probable scenario of the PLAN landing forces on the Senkaku Islands with an overall goal of establishing air and sea control of the South China Sea. We have also had scenarios involving a Taiwan Strait crossing, a freedom of navigation operation near a fictional Chinese island, taking out land targets and much more. In the past we have been focusing on modern and probable scenarios mostly involving the PLAN and the South China Sea but are looking to broaden our horizons to other countries' military and locations.

We are proud to say that NSTC has approved the CMO program for another year and are looking to implement it as a permanent aspect of the battalion training as well as battalions across the nation. We are the first battalion using the software in Lab and as curriculum in Naval Science classes.



OC Spotlight

By OC Vivian
Gutierrez



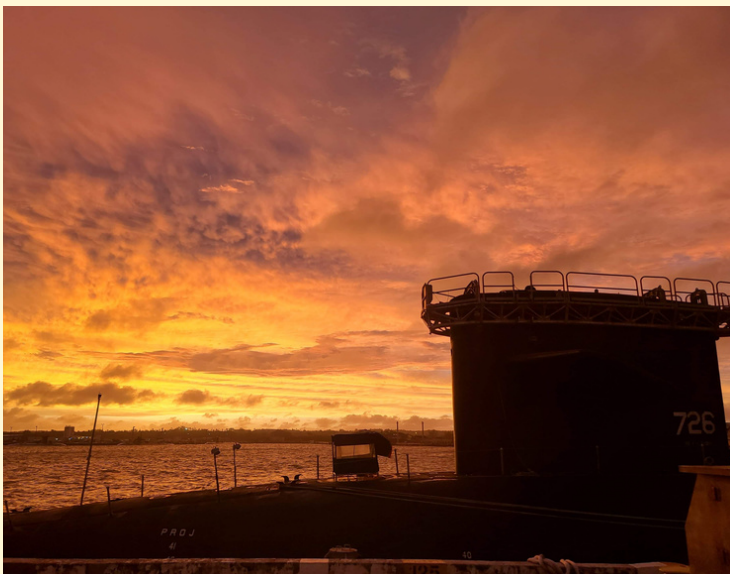
The contrast between life on shore duty and at sea can be interesting at times. There are moments I miss being on the boat and there are times I appreciate being here at NC State with the NROTC unit and being close to family. One of the biggest differences is the workload. Some might say I'm comparing apples to oranges, but the key difference here is that for the Navy, when you're attached to a seagoing command: work stays at work. At college there's really not any excuse not to take your work with you, so the balance between work-life separation becomes harder. I miss doing my job and the technical aspect of it. There's something about working on the boat that gives you immediate gratification. This journey in college is a bit longer and sometimes I forget about the bigger picture, but there are benefits that I wouldn't trade for anything: being there for my grandmother going through chemotherapy right now with her late stage cancer and my father finally coming home after working overseas for the last decade.



OC Spotlight (Cont.)



➤➤➤ These are huge events in my life. Time with them is priceless. And while I enjoy spending time with my loved ones here, there's a sense of community that I was missing when I first arrived at NC State. To have a division of about 12 or 13 people you constantly work with and spend every waking moment with, then to come here, and suddenly being surrounded by thousands of students makes you feel utterly alone. It's almost too much freedom. You don't know how to fill the quiet moments now because you didn't have quiet moments on the boat. You have more than 10 minutes to eat a meal, and instead of a packed crews mess you might be sitting alone or with one person somewhere on campus. But that's the thing, you're a non-traditional student so you probably can't just drive home because it's likely you live further than the five minute dorms on campus. So you feel out of place on campus anywhere you go for a little while. I pushed myself to join a club sport and it was the best thing I ever did. Being active and involved, the team was the best thing that happened to me. Because from the team, there was an NROTC midshipman. Then I started spending more time with the midshipmen outside of the formal ROTC events and formed some of the most amazing friendships. They truly enriched my life and changed the experience I had in this program. So, yes, life is different here than it is on the boat. Both are amazing at times, both are challenging at times in different ways. My only advice to anyone new coming here through this program is to make the most of it. Work hard, but don't forget to take care of yourself. Rediscover who you are. Embrace the people around you and accept their help.



Drill Competitions

By MIDN 4/C Miller

»»» Drill teaches immediate obedience of orders and strict discipline. More importantly for NC State, it brought together our class towards a common goal. We prepared early mornings and late nights in order to perfect the drill card and master the little things in order to put forth our best effort. MIDN 3/C Dakota Gray led the platoon drill team in countless hours of preparation. He stepped up and took the position of unit leader despite having little experience and did a great job. Between organizing meetings, learning the drill manual and drill card, and instructing an entire platoon, Gray was a critical part of our success as a team.

When we finally got to the drill meets they were a blast. We bussed halfway across the country, not once, but twice in the same semester. We got to interact with other midshipmen from schools across the country. At Tulane we were able to drill in the morning and then go out and experience Mardi Gras in New Orleans, an experience that most will never forget.



Drill Competitions (Cont.)



The Ohio State drill meet was set up much differently than the Tulane Drill Meet. Instead of just drill there were a multitude of events for midshipmen to participate in. Some of these included powerlifting, pistol shooting, close order drill and an endurance race. Although we worked hard towards the drill meet itself, the experiences in between drill were where we truly got closer as a class and as a battalion.

The Ohio State and Tulane drill meets were an integral part of the Spring semester. All of the 4/C were on competition teams from close ordered platoon drill to exhibition drill. We were able to compete and hold our own against other big named schools. Even more importantly we were able to come together as the NROTC to put together a community of people.

