



FALL 2023



1MC

30.November.2023



NC STATE NAVAL ROTC

INTRODUCTION

**By: MIDN 2/C
Brooke Hermes**



After a summer full of both training and fun, the North Carolina State NROTC Battalion resumed their duties within the school year. Over the semester the members of the battalion experienced a lot of growth and learning. Even MECEP's and OC's reflect on the growth they've experienced. Keep reading to learn more about what exciting things we did this semester!

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Naval ROTC at NC State



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LIFE AS A FRESHMAN

By: MIDN 4/C
Carter Broderson



To put it bluntly, life as a 4/C is no walk in the park or full of sunshine and rainbows. But to be fair, anything worthwhile rarely is. From the beginning, the battalion is largely here to your benefit. Soon after NSO, you have access to a lot of knowledge and mentorship. The upperclassmen are here and at your disposal whether that be with school work, working out, and overall general life advice. Having this was beneficial for me beyond what I had imagined. Many times have I sat there with my squad leader as he helped me through a chapter of our famed PQS book (more on that to come) or even on some chemistry work. We are a tight group and are here to help at any turn.

Now onto the lovely topic of PQS. This is a little consortium-wide program to have all new members introduced to general Navy knowledge. I won't lie this is definitely a pain but you will get through it because if someone like me can anyone can. Plus we are all here for you. We will get you through it. Have faith in yourself and your prep and you will get through it.

For me, the adjustment to college was a rough one, and certainly, ROTC weighed heavy on me at times. The early mornings and seemingly pointless endeavors yes weigh deeply. One thing that always got me through it was remembering the path I'm on and also why I came here in the first place. The reality is we aren't here to be served but to serve and this is the beginning of that journey. Lastly, if I could make any recommendations for a new member to help relieve these worries would be to find familiarity where you can whether that be simple as posters or the comforter you use. These things regardless as small as they might be go miles. And don't forget to make some friends along the way. We are all in this together and we can only succeed as one.

May God bless you and protect you in all you do.



LEARNING HOW TO LEAD

By: MIDN 2/C
Jack Biggs



➤➤➤ Last spring, when the Striper Boards were introduced, I took a hard look at my own strengths and weaknesses. It was a moment of introspection where I tried to figure out which role could help me tackle my shortcomings and push me to become a more skilled Naval Officer. The position of Senior Chief stood out as the best fit for me. My decision was driven by a genuine desire to improve my counseling abilities and strike a balance between being a friendly peer and a firm, fair leader. This shift has been instrumental in allowing me to smoothly transition between these roles, offering valuable lessons beyond what I initially anticipated.

In addition to refining my interpersonal skills, I aimed to actively contribute to the Professional Qualification Standards (PQS) of the 4th class. I wanted to share my experiences and offer mentorship to prepare these future officers for the unique challenges they would face. The impact of mentorship and shared experiences is something that reverberates through the corridors of leadership, laying the groundwork for the future of our battalion.



➤➤➤ Throughout the semester, the role of Senior Chief took on the responsibility of upholding standards, with a special emphasis on punctuality. Understanding that occasional lateness is inevitable, I realized that leadership isn't just about setting high standards but also consistently adhering to them. I introduced a practice where Squad Leaders were expected to arrive five minutes before muster, and I set an even higher standard for myself at ten minutes early. This wasn't just a routine; it was a deliberate choice to showcase responsibility, reliability, and a deep respect for time.

Punctuality, beyond its surface-level implications, became a cornerstone for trust within our company and the broader organization. Leaders, by consistently adhering to established standards, inspire confidence in their abilities and unwavering dedication. On the flip side, a lack of punctuality erodes trust, not just in the leadership but in the very essence of the organization. The measures we took weren't arbitrary; they were strategic decisions aimed at nurturing a culture where every member understands the value of time and the responsibility that comes with it.

➤➤➤ In the unique position of authority as a Senior Chief, I found myself engaging with individuals I might not have otherwise talked to. Weekly meetings with key figures provided insights from Gunnery Sergeant Barrera, offering a wealth of experience and unique perspectives that enriched our discussions. This exposure to diverse viewpoints has been a priceless asset, shaping not only my leadership style but also enhancing my problem-solving skills.

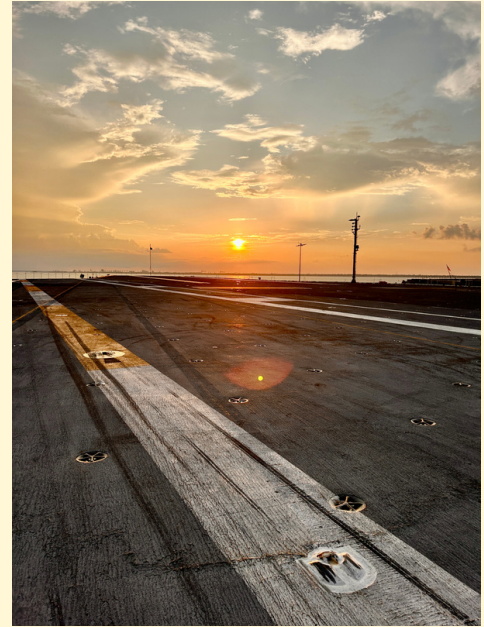
In conclusion, my time as a Senior Chief has been a journey that goes beyond fulfilling a billet's duties. It's been an opportunity to navigate the delicate balance between friendship and leadership, actively contribute to shaping the future of upcoming officers, and emphasize the crucial importance of maintaining high standards. As I continue in my naval career, these lessons act as guiding principles, reminding me that effective leadership is about not just setting standards but living them consistently—a principle I carry forward with steadfast commitment.



A summer at CORTRAMID

By MIDN 3/C Brad
Sweeter

➤➤➤ This past summer I went to CORTRAMID. On our first day, we got our schedule for the next four weeks and I was thrilled; every Saturday and Sunday was a free day. My first week was at Camp Lejeune-Marine Week. As we pulled up to the barracks, no one could stay silent. We all remember exactly a year ago when, on the third day of NSI, the Marine Corps drill instructors barged into the room and made us PT all day. We were terrified that this would be a repeat experience. As we were filing off the bus and grabbing our bags, it seemed almost too quiet. The Marine Corps officers were peacefully talking about 50 yards away, eyeing us occasionally. After a few minutes of standing around in anticipation, a Master Sergeant and Gunnery Sergeant came storming out of a hallway screaming their heads off. During summer cruise my experience with senior enlisted Marines meant guaranteed PT sessions. I started to worry about what was in store for us and all that was going through my mind was the fact that this was supposed to be a free day. I came to the conclusion that surely, they wouldn't mess with us and take away our free day.



A summer at CORTRAMID Cont.

Oh, how wrong I was. We began our 3 mile, 50lbs ruck at 0530 the following day. Throughout the week, we had similar events and evolutions starting at 0500 and going all the way until 1800 or 1900. At first, I was frustrated with the number of things to do in a day- they just seemed to go on forever. But at night when I went to bed, I always seemed to be excited for what the next day had in store for us which surprised me a little bit. For the number of evolutions we did, I was baffled that no one either got hurt, was missing gear, or missed a muster time. While it was hard to realize then, I saw the punctuality in the officers who were in charge of us. For every time we moved, they got counts and every time someone lost gear, we took accountability and found it. To the people doing gear accountability, it's annoying, frustrating, and tedious, but from an officer's perspective, it is necessary. No one wants to be the one who is late and underprepared- it's humiliating and exhausting for everyone. This motivates those who are underprepared to be more like their peers.

I noticed after a week with Marines that being complacent and lazy is detrimental to those below, beside, and above you as a Marine Corp officer and in order to be successful you must have discipline. The Marine Corps structure has had a lasting impact on me as I have begun to embody these values this semester in all aspects of my life. For ROTC events, I have set my alarm at minimum 35 minutes prior to muster times to ensure that I am both awake, prepared, and early. For school related activities, I check each day the requirements for the class whether that be assignments, tests, or even pre-lectures. Before every event, I will double or even triple check to ensure I am prepared; and at the end of each day, I mentally prepare for the next.



Becoming an Upperclassmen

By MIDN 2/C
Walter Shannon



I still remember the first day I joined the Battalion as a college programmer almost three years ago. It was really confusing, definitely intimidating, and absolutely a culture shock going into straight out of highschool with no prior experience. I now realize that most of that initial stress and confusion was intentional and necessary to set a baseline for what to expect down the road. I recall looking at the upperclassmen as a 4/C and I wondered how they were able to balance this sort of lifestyle with being a college student, and it is without a doubt difficult to manage but a lot of the challenges and struggles you experience in the beginning will help with that.

In the beginning it seemed a very daunting concept becoming more senior and having to deal with even more challenges and responsibilities, but as you rise in class it becomes more evident that you have been preparing yourself for it whether or not you realize it. When you do become a 3/C, 2/C, or even a 1/C it might seem like an abrupt “switch” to that class along with its requirements and responsibilities at first, but in reality it is a much slower and more natural transition that you and others have been preparing for. So once that change does occur it is not as if it is being dumped onto your plate all at once, even if it seems that way in the beginning.



Becoming an Uperclassmen - Cont.

➤➤➤ Some may view it differently, but in my opinion it is not a difficult transition to accomplish; and although there are a fair amount of responsibilities that come with it, most will find that they are well prepared to handle them. It is important to remember that by being here, whether on scholarship, advanced standing, or even as a college programer, you are an investment. You are continually being invested in by your peers, your upperclassmen, your Active Duty, and the Navy as a whole. By being here and advancing through the program, you are earning these new duties and responsibilities, in turn preparing yourself and others for success in the future as an officer in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



A MECEP Reflection

By GySgt James Smith



When I first joined the Marine Corps, like many junior Marines, I had no idea whether I would make the Marine Corps a career or not. I leapfrogged from opportunity to opportunity, from training to deployment and training again. Months turned into years, another Marine Corps ball, and another leave block. Over time, I was hooked on the lifestyle and the people. Marines have always been special; we have a hard time not being around other Marines. I have seen it time and time again where a friend exits the Marine Corps and stays connected to their circle, often for the rest of their lives. Our bond is shared across a unique culture and language that no one else understands. It for these reasons, that I have chosen to stay and long as I can.

Along my way I bumped into some incredible mentors, many of whom pushed me towards online school and eventually the commissioning programs. In the spring of 2019, I began to forge the mental and physical toughness needed to tackle such a program. The nature of Marine Corps' enlisted to commissioned education program (MECEP) requires a Marine be ready long before finding out they are selected. For me, this meant the highest level of physical readiness, and the acceptance that I would, once again, be standing "on line" in some entry level training squad bay. Receiving the news of selection to the (MECEP) was a highlight in my life.



A MECEP Reflection- Cont.

➤➤➤ I owe a lot of gratitude to Major Call Deverill for the dedication he showed as my company grade mentor. Many miles and many influential lessons later, I was fully prepared to tackle the obstacles that waited on Brown Field in Virginia. Another mentor, LtCol Donald Kelly, spent countless hours with me as a fellow Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) student in Yuma AZ. He always challenged me to dig a little deeper than the surface; to look at the attention to detail one last time, and to be an expert in my craft. At the time, I took these lessons for what they were; things I needed to get better at. However, in time, I came to realize that I had learned something far more important than the subjects at hand: I had been taught what good leadership looks like. Dedication time after working hours to ensure the success of others, is leadership. Being humble, knowing more than you need to about your profession, knowing when to apply corrections and when not to, that's leadership. These mentors taught me what it means to be a Marine Officer, and now the Marine Corps has seen fit to give me the opportunity to pay it forward to the next generation of Marines.

My time at NC State University's Naval ROTC Battalion has also had a lasting impact on my career and development as a Marine Officer. Outside of hiking, PT, TBS classes, and many other Marine Corps activities, I have had the chance to meet many young, professional men and women who will soon serve alongside me in tomorrow's naval force. I forged relationships that taught me humility and patience while passing on valuable lessons learned to a younger generation of aspiring leaders. The wardroom discussions were as important to me as they were for those who participated, and I'm thankful and humbled for the opportunity to have been a part of it. As I step off to TBS, I reflect on the words of my father, who said that it is easy to wield a position of authority with fear, it is much harder to be revered, and through reverence, you can accomplish almost anything.



YEARBOOK



YEARBOOK
CONT.



YEARBOOK CONT.

