
SIDELIGHTS



Fall 2016



University of Colorado
Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

University of Colorado NROTC

Vision Statement



To develop students morally, mentally, and physically to become professional officers in the Naval Service; to reinforce the enduring core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and cultivate the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare them for service to our nation.

Commanding Officer

Colonel Michael J. Gough, USMC

We all should roll into this holiday season knowing that we did our best this semester and that we made a difference in the lives of our teammates. If we don't feel this pride, each of us should take this holiday period to reflect on what we can do to improve ourselves for the next semester.



The German philosopher Immanuel Kant once wrote that living a good and moral life was not about “how we may make ourselves happy, but how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness.” I truly believe this is a worthy concept to weave into our lives. You each have a worthy cause – service to your nation, your mission, and your fellow service-members – and it is in service to something other than self that allows you to live a life worthy of happiness.

As you leave for the winter break, I task you with the following:

- Recharge your batteries – get some rest, find balance, and get prepared to return to thrive in school and this program.
- Stay in shape – mentally, physically, and spiritually.
- Serve a purpose greater than yourself – find a way to volunteer and/or contribute to a cause in which you believe -- make yourselves worthy of happiness.

For our new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants, one chapter in your lives has come to an end, but the most important chapter in your leadership journey is just beginning: your first duty station or follow-on school. This is your chance to begin with genuine enthusiasm, an eager mind, and a renewed dedication to excellence. You leave CU having made a difference and having improved our program – hit the Fleet proud of your accomplishments and confident in your abilities to learn and grow, but remain humble in your approach to purposeful and earned successes.

I look forward to tracking the successes of our graduates. For our returning Midshipmen and enlisted students, be sure to bring motivation and renewed energy back from the break!



Executive Officer

Commander Charles W. Brown, USN



As the Holidays approach the Battalion has had another successful semester and we are soon sending newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenants and Ensigns off to The Basic School to become Marines and the fleet to train new submariners, aviators, and surface warriors! Congratulations to them and all of you on the great effort you put forward in accomplishing all that went into this semester. The question to ask now is, how good was MIDN 1/C Duquette's Movember mustache? Wait....that wasn't it. It was how can we go forward and make things even better?

- REFLECTION. How many of you have taken on a job or a position where you had little to no turnover or guidance? What went well? What didn't? One of the most important aspects of our growth as individuals, units, and organizations is our ability to learn from past experience. In aviation, we

approach flying with a good amount of pre-flight preparation, a briefing, execution of the flight, and then a debriefing. And without fail you hear that the most important part of that process is the debrief and it is where the most learning takes place.



- Upperclassmen. If you held a billet in the unit how are you going to improve the position for the incoming billet holder? What information will help them have a smoother transition going forward? And always leaning forward, what lessons can you draw from the person who had the new billet you will be taking? Don't make them seek you out; go sponge off of them, especially if they are departing after December.
- Midshipmen 4/C. Now is a perfect time to reflect on your transition into the battalion. Remember how you felt after New Student Orientation? How did the process go from there? Did you receive enough information from your chain of command? Too much information from your chain of command? Is there a way you would suggest to improve the process? Ask these questions now while the memories are still fresh, and more importantly write these ideas or thoughts down and submit them up the chain of command.
- Midshipmen 4/C again. Are you still in recovery from the shock of the academic challenge at the collegiate level or did you just crush it? Are you in the right major or did you raise your hand in Calculus I and say "I understood there would be no math." The next 3 ½ to 4 years will be a tremendous investment of time, effort, and money. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY!** If you haven't found your fit, get on it.

All of us should take this break to reflect on all aspects of how the previous semester time frame went down. And we should take time to focus on ourselves as individuals. Take a moment to read an article titled, "Solitude and Leadership" by William Deresiewicz. It can be found on the American Scholar website and it was an address to the plebe class at West Point in 2009. Ask a 3/C midshipman about it. While you are at it, ask them about upper right leadership.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday break!



Words From the Top 4

Battalion Commanding Officer



MIDN 1/C Lahrs

This semester the Top 4 sought to provide the unit with the necessary tools and resources for academic excellence, physical fitness progress, and personal development. This meant taking a hard look at what events we participated in, and the way we conducted them. We understood that there is no way to force people to seek out help, but we can make sure new opportunities present themselves to the members of the unit that further develop the individual.

This semester has been an amazing learning experience for me. Working with the people from Trident, Semper Fi, active duty, and civilians has left me with a great pride to be a part of this unit. The ambitiousness and hard work of the members of this battalion is an amazing thing to see, especially in contrast to the other students on campus. The midshipman here have an incredible work ethic that is exemplified by the billet holders I have worked with this semester. The time and effort put into the billets, from Top 4 midshipman to squad leaders, is an amazing thing to see. I am grateful for all of their hard work throughout the semester.

Battalion Executive Officer



MIDN 1/C Severs

The Battalion Executive Officer assists the Battalion Commanding Officer by enforcing their vision, ensuring execution of the daily operations of the battalion, and by making sure the standards are upheld by battalion members. Some of the duties this role includes are tracking watch standing, upholding professionalism, ensuring proper planning of battalion events, and acting as an aide to the BNCO.

The battalion is an extremely dynamic environment. Each week is filled with battalion team practices, meetings, classes, physical training, study hours, and often times one of the larger events from the semester like the Leadership Reaction Course, Football Security, or Stadium Clean Up. Tracking all of these events, planning for the rest of the semester, and completing one's academic workload takes up a lot of time, but it is also important to make the time to keep oneself squared away. While we should all aim to hold ourselves to the highest standards, it is crucial to consistently and effectively do this as the BNCO because this billet is the example set to the rest of the battalion of what standards they are to be held to. If the standards are lax for anyone it will permeate to the rest of the battalion, and we are not here to learn how to be inadequate.

This semester the mission was to provide the battalion with the information, tools, guidance, and training that they would need to succeed both as students and battalion members while aiming to cut out material that was an unnecessary burden on people's time. Being that this is a large task, it took a lot of detail oriented work from the chain of command to carefully coordinate events and classes to provide the proper training without going overboard. I feel comfortable saying that the time demand for the average member of the battalion was effectively lightened and that the work load included only necessary and useful training.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be the BNCO. It has been a challenge, a huge learning experience, and it was awesome to see everyone's hard work in the planning and preparation phases from various events come to fruition in their respective execution phases. Thank you all for the time and effort you put in to the battalion.

Words From the Top

Battalion Operations Officer



MIDN 1/C Nesius

This Fall I had the opportunity to serve as the Operations Officer for the unit. It is my responsibility to create the Plan of the Week, as well as coordinating and reserving spaces for the various events that our unit conducts throughout the semester. It has been a very worthwhile and informative billet, and easily the most challenging position that I have held in the Battalion thus far. One thing that I have learned is that you need to pay attention to the little things and make sure to plan for every eventuality. In the same way, I've also come to understand that changes are going to happen, often quickly and unexpectedly, and you must be flexible and prepared to adapt. I am looking forward to taking the lessons that I have learned during my time as OPS and applying them to my job in the fleet.

Battalion Sergeant Major



MIDN 2/C Johnson

Fall 2016 was a busy semester for both the battalion, as well as the top four. During this semester, I had the privilege of working under MIDN Lahrs, Severs, and Nesius to plan battalion events from stadium cleanups to final exercises to leadership reaction courses. If there is one thing I have learned from working with these fine men, it is the importance of servant leadership and communication. Throughout the course of the semester, we faced challenges that would both test our command relationship. Early on, communication and information sharing was a struggle that caused both friction and uncertainty. However, as the semester went on MIDN Lahrs, Severs, and Nesius were able to implement new policies allowing us to more efficiently run the battalion. In addition to the importance of communication, the characteristics of servant leadership were tried as both our role as students and leaders were challenged. Both time management and priorities were tested, creating a gut check that forced us to come to terms with what leadership really is: service from the top down. As the semester wraps up, I had the privilege of witnessing the necessary service it takes to be a leader, and will implement these characteristics in my future endeavors as a Marine Corps Officer.



Trident Division

MIDN 1/C McComas



Trident Society this semester has been very much defined by how we want to transition from students into Naval Officers. In years past, that link has often been obscured and taken for granted. As a result, we tailored our goals into two important themes: 1) bringing our new members into the Trident team and 2) defining what Trident needs to be for us and our eventual transition into the fleet. Along those lines, we came together and decided on a vision that we believe embodies these themes and what we want out of Trident as a whole, listed below:

Our vision is to create an environment that promotes critical thinking, leadership and team development, and obtain practical knowledge of the Navy. We will develop ourselves into a professional, focused, and

efficient group and we will seek to represent ourselves as moral and academic role models within our community.

As Trident's Department Head, I am very proud of the thought and dedication that both my leadership team and the rest of Trident put into the work laid out in front of them over the course of the semester. It is easy to forget that the military is largely a people organization, and it is truly the people that make up this organization who carry it and each other towards future success. The opportunity to work with and lead such people was quite the added bonus, for which I am thankful.

Semper Fi Division

MIDN 1/C Duquette



This semester our goals for Semper Fi set out to challenge our Midshipman in their levels of physical fitness and in their communication abilities. Throughout this semester we made significant strides to raise the bar for PT, and we got some truly savage runs carrying ammo cans and logs in boots and utes. As a Company, we conducted a challenging 9 mile hike where we conquered Bergen Peak in Evergreen, CO. Additionally, as we sought to improve our abilities to communicate, we consistently practiced and worked with 5 Paragraph Orders. Overall, I think that this

semester managed to challenge the members of Semper Fi both mentally and physically, and has contributed positively to increasing our capability to lead as future Marine Corps Officers.

On a more personal note, my billet this semester as Semper Fi CO has once again provided an invaluable experience to learn and grow as a leader. The wide variety of issues I had to address taught me never to be surprised and never assume anything when in command.

Commissioning Graduates



Mario Delsalvo



Joshua Patterson

Andrew Bullard

"Coming to the University of Colorado has probably been one of the best decisions I have ever made. The outstanding views and plethora of outdoor recreation available in the Boulder area are second to none. Being a part of CUNROTC has allowed me to develop mentally, morally and physically. I have had the opportunity to make many friends at CU while also being able to mentor, guide and assist many Midshipmen as they become future Officers in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. Sko Buffs!"



Jordan Witt

"Throughout my time at CU and in the NROTC unit, I have learned that time management is a critical key to success. I managed to maintain a good GPA, work about 20 hours a week, stay involved in the unit, and even study abroad. There were certainly times when it felt like there weren't enough hours in the day but I wouldn't give up a single aspect of my college experience. Every commitment I've given my time to has helped to make me a well-rounded person and has prepared me for what I know will be a busy career in the Navy. My best piece of advice for current and future midshipmen is to take advantage of all the opportunities that the unit and the university have to offer and to perfect your time management skills as early as possible!"

Commissioning Graduates



Joshua McVey

"Utilize the abilities of the team here in Boulder to its fullest potential. Let people work where they are best suited, and give them room to grow. School is a laboratory for learning and by extension, failing. Use it to develop as an individual and as a member of the team."

Benjamin Stewart

"Being in NROTC at CU Boulder is probably the best thing anyone can do right out of high school. Boulder is an outstanding college town that everyone who's fortunate enough to go here should take full advantage of. Take breaks from school and just go explore the town and the mountains. Work hard, enjoy yourself, and laugh at all your friends that are stressing about job interviews. You're doing it right."



Nicholas Venzke

"The fact that I was able to come to the University of Colorado was based purely on preparation meeting opportunity. Even though I only had three semesters with the battalion, I was able to see the future of the Navy and make some friends along the way. Every opportunity is what you make it. So when you choose to do something whether it is NROTC, academics, sports, or anything else, go at it wholeheartedly and strive for excellence. It is always worth it in the end"

Alexis Wylie

"My four and a half years at the University of Colorado NROTC program has taught me a great deal about leadership, teamwork, and developing into the best possible version of myself. If there is any advice I could give to my peers below me, it would be to always give 100% effort. Our battalion does an excellent job of setting you up to be ready for life in the fleet. Take advantage of your resources at the unit, and know that hard work does pay off in the end. Remember to have fun and be a team player always."



EOD Weekend

MIDN 2/C Hebenstreit

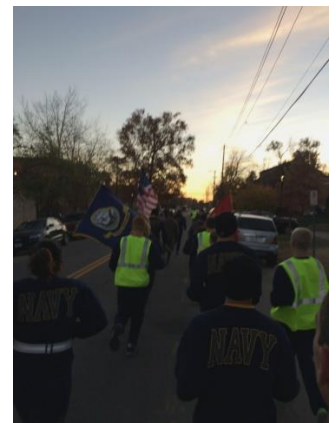
The purpose of EOD exposure weekend is to familiarize interested MIDN and potential candidates with the EOD community, Job, and lifestyle. MIDN are put through physically and mentally challenging evolution's designed to simulate the rigors of dive school as well as take part in informative Q&A sessions/briefs to learn more about the community.



Veterans Day Run

MIDN 2/C Vornholt

Veteran's Day is the day on which we honor and respect past, present, and future members of the various branches of the United States military. Here at CU NROTC each Veteran's Day we hold a run to Columbia Cemetery, where approximately 300 veterans are buried. As a sign of respect the members of the battalion place an American flag on each of these veterans graves. These flags serve as symbol of honor and remembrance for the sacrifices that these veterans made.



Sea Service Ball

MIDN 1/C Theulen



On November 5th, 2016, The University of Colorado Naval ROTC hosted a birthday ball celebration to commemorate the 241st birthdays of both the Navy and Marine Corps. Members of the Naval ROTC battalion, honorary active and retired guests of the Navy and Marine Corps, and their guests assembled at the Bryon White Clubs in Boulder, Colorado to watch and participate in the birthday ceremony in accordance with Naval tradition.

The University of Colorado Naval ROTC was privileged to have guest of honor Captain Terry Sheffield USN (ret) in attendance during the birthday ball celebration. Capt. Sheffield shared some “no sh*t” sea stories that helped shape him as a successful Naval Officer and leader. His three principals were to be prepared, to be flexible, and to give credit where it was due.

Captain Sheffield commissioned as an Ensign in 1968 from Naval Officer Candidate School. He was a surface warfare officer by trade, and later serviced as Commanding Officer of the NROTC unit at the University of Colorado. He even shared a short anecdote where he attempted to produce more SWOs from the unit, but just ended up with a box full of black shoes on his porch.

The 241st birthday ball celebration was a great success and enabled all in attendance the chance to reflect on the past sacrifices of Sailors and Marines that have gone before, pass traditions on to future war fighting leaders, and embrace the present day esprit de corps that defines each service.



