

SIDELIGHTS

Fall 2017



University of Colorado at Boulder Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps



NROTC University of Colorado

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.

*"Observe good faith and justice toward
all nations.*

Cultivate peace and harmony with all. "

-George Washington

Contents

Commanding Officer's Remarks	1
Executive Officer's Remarks	2
Battalion Leadership	3
Trident	5
Semper Fi	6
Commissioning Graduates	7
Battalion Events	8



Commanding Officer

As always, the end of each semester comes with the opportunity to reflect on your goals, analyze what went well and not-so-well, and set a modified course to achieve your goals. For our newly commissioned Ensigns and Second Lieutenants: Go hit the fleet with energy and be ready for the demanding but rewarding work that comes with serving your juniors and learning to master your chosen craft. For those that are continuing into the spring semester with us, I task you with the following as I have for each break:

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.

Service. We sometimes use this word almost too loosely. What does it mean to be “in the service?” It means you are serving multiple groups: your country, your branch of service, your command, your community, and your Sailors or Marines, to name a few. It means you are serving each other right here in this NROTC unit. These are significant requirements! How you dedicate yourself to “service” will shape what kind of a leader you are – and you will be judged by how seriously you take this obligation.

When people tell you, “thank you for your service,” you should be able to link what you’ve been doing to serving those groups above – even if it is only preparing yourself to serve as an officer through our program here in NROTC. You should be proud of who you are and to what you’ve dedicated this step of your life.

Enjoy the winter break – but more importantly – come back ready to renew your service to each other and to our mission here at CU NROTC.

Semper Fidelis



Michael J. Gough,
Colonel USMC



Executive Officer

The Past Does Not Define You

Fall 2017 is behind us. How was it for you?

If you were a 4/C Midshipman you might have had to adjust to a more challenging academic environment, learned that there really isn't as much oxygen in Boulder (for out of state folks), or discovered that it is different living on your own and you are completely responsible for your actions.

If you were a 3/C or above, you might have had a challenging billet for the first time, been responsible for others, or faced more challenging core courses that seem now to require actual class attendance.

And along the way you probably made a mistake or two. For myself, I haven't made a mistake in about seven months or so and my last one was that I thought I was wrong about something but it turned out I was right. And if you believe that.....I also invented the interwebs and have a Snapchat score of 299,000.

The fact of the matter is at times, we all make mistakes, feel like we could or should have performed better, or fail to meet ours, or others, expectations. And that is inevitable...and ok. Failing forward is what makes us better individuals. Failing forward is learning the lessons of those past mistakes and doing our best not to repeat them.

Col McCoy, author of *Passion of Command*, discusses mistakes for his personnel in this way:

"I told them that as long as they made mistakes of commission rather than omission, I would embrace that mistake. I would even embrace it twice!"

Being out there and making decisions, learning from them, is exactly what you are supposed to be doing in your growth here mentally, morally, and physically!

MIDN 3/C Zimmer and Irizarry gave speeches in Leadership and Management regarding the importance failure plays in someone's ultimate success; ask them about it. And if you want a tool to throw in your toolkit about achieving your expectations or goals ask MIDN 3/C Aldrich about BSQ.

Happy holidays! Spring 2018 won't be mistake free, but will you make it better than fall 2017?



Charles W. Brown
Commander, USN



Battalion Leadership



Being the Battalion Commander this semester has been an absolute privilege and a wonderful learning experience. The vision of this semester was one of developing a cohesive unit of MIDN with high character who are capable of communicating their ideas, enhancing their physical fitness and developing an academic mindset. With that being said, a major goal of this semester was the integration of the 4/C MIDN into the battalion and allowing them to begin their development into leaders first by developing a sense of followership. There is still work to be done moving into the next semester, but the battalion is moving in the right direction. The MIDN are ready to continue to learn new things, improve upon what they are good at, and make a conscious effort to get better in their struggle areas.

As the BNCO, I couldn't have asked for a better Top 4, Trident Department Head, and Semper Fi Company Commander. All of these individuals allowed me to grow into the role and offered excellent guidance along the way. As a whole this, was an effective team that will have many positive lessons learned to pass on to the future billet holders. I am extremely excited to see where the battalion goes next semester. I would also like to wish the four individuals commissioning this winter the best of luck moving forward in your Navy and Marine Corps careers and congratulations.

***Logan Shapiro,
Battalion Commanding Officer***



Over the course of the fall 2017 semester I was blessed with the privilege of leading the CU NROTC Battalion as the Battalion Executive Officer. Under the guidance of our commanding officer, MIDN Shapiro, and together with the help of MIDN Fox and MIDN Vornholt, we constructed a vision in order to guide the battalion towards our goals of integration, academic success, and mentorship. Our semester of leadership was marked with some very important signs that we were achieving some of our goals, from the camaraderie displayed during the Semper Fi Fex, to the esprit de corps displayed during the 4/C Gear Locker Inventory, it was clear that MIDN Shapiro and the Navy and Semper Fi Leadership was on course to achieve our mission. However, despite our numerous successes as a battalion, one of the most notable lessons came from our various failures.

The greatest privilege of leading our CU NROTC Battalion is the freedom of power and responsibility with which we are given. The most significant aspect of this setting is the reality of failure. Like those who have gone before us, I failed many times. Whether I had improperly supervised the completion of the recognition board, or ensured the understanding of orders including our watch standing Letter of Instruction, the fact of the matter was: I routinely failed. However, it was in these situations that I learned the most, specifically from our outstanding corps of MECEPs in the unit who would unhesitatingly provide key lessons. It was these lessons, taught by our MECEPs, our peers, and our outstanding officer staff, that we will carry into the fleet and ensure the performance of the future Naval and Marine Corps Forces.

***Michael Johnson,
Battalion Executive Officer***

Battalion Leadership



This Fall I had the honor of serving among the Top 4 as the Operations Officer. The primary role of the operations officer, at least how I viewed it, is to handle logistical and scheduling related decisions in order to support and facilitate the vision of the Battalion Commanding Officer. With this primary role in mind, the most visible duty of the Operations Officer is the Plan of the Week. I quickly learned how important it is for the POW to be consistently easy to understand, concise, and free of mistakes, which requires an Operations Officer to focus on not only the big picture battalion-wide evolutions but on the day-to-day details of weekly battalion events. As a secondary role the Operations Officer is often looked to by the BNCO and BN XO for advice and opinions. Throughout this semester I worked closely with the other members of the Top 4 (MIDN Shapiro, MIDN Johnson, and MIDN Fox) planning the course we wanted the Battalion to take. I felt that as a Top 4, all of our individual insights and advice were taken to enact the best course of action, no single individual had the “my way or the highway” mentality. Overall, I enjoyed my time as BNOPS, learned some valuable insights on leadership, and had the pleasure of working with a talented group of Midshipman set on leaving the battalion better than it was given.

Jacob Vornholt
Battalion Operations Officer



This Fall I had the privilege of being Battalion Sergeant Major, serving alongside MIDN Shapiro, MIDN Johnson, and MIDN Vornholt. It was an honor to see the dedication of the midshipman, MECEPs, OC, and staff, who all worked hard toward improving the battalion. This semester, we wanted to stay true to the goal of ROTC as a training program, creating an environment where members of the battalion could be successful in academics and physical fitness, while focusing on their development as future officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. There were many challenges we came across, which provided an excellent opportunity to learn and develop as a team, and we worked to stay united throughout the semester. As a battalion, we came together to celebrate the birthdays of the Navy and Marine Corps in one of the most successful and enjoyable Birthday Balls I have experienced during my time here, demonstrating the camaraderie we have developed over the course of the semester. I am grateful to have been a part of the Top Four, which has provided me many valuable opportunities to learn and improve, giving me insight into the weaknesses I need to address, and the strengths I need to cultivate as I work toward my goal of becoming a Marine Corps officer. It is my sincere hope that we created a solid foundation upon which the Top Four of next semester—and future semesters—can build upon. I look forward to seeing the battalion develop and improve in the coming years, and I am honored to be a part of it.

Kristiana Fox
Battalion Sergeant Major

Trident

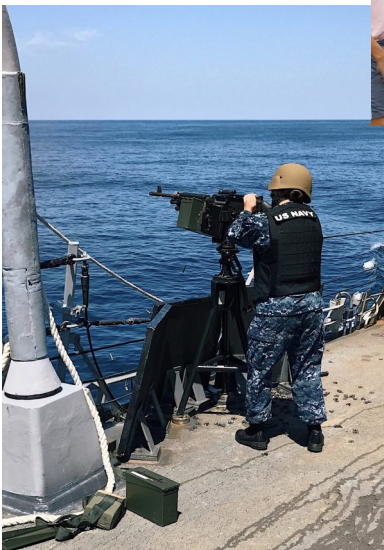
And Commissioning Graduate



Trident's mission this semester was to develop well-rounded citizens capable of becoming intelligent and decisive Naval Officers. While this may have been a lofty goal for one semester, I believe that groundwork was laid for Trident Midshipmen to continue their development through next semester and beyond. Each Midshipman in Trident read one book off of the CNO's reading list and participated in at least one volunteer event with their shops. We also had multiple guest speakers, including prior CU NROTC Midshipmen, in order to expose Trident Midshipmen to their opportunities in the fleet. In the ship simulator, fourth class were exposed to the basics of ship handling and upperclassmen were given the opportunity to hone in on their skills in preparation for next semester's Sea Trials. I am grateful to my staff for their support in coordinating these events and their constant enthusiasm. There is value in learning how to adapt to constantly changing circumstances and leadership challenges with grace and efficiency. They did an excellent job of doing just that this semester.

For those of you not commissioning with me in December, remember to enjoy some things outside of NROTC while you are enrolled here. There is a reason we chose this over Academy life. This is the most free time most of us will ever have and a great place to meet new people and be exposed to different ideas. Take this time to challenge yourself mentally and physically so that you are better prepared to lead and thrive when you get to the Big Navy. That being said, I am extremely excited to commission in December and hope to see you all doing great and exciting things in the fleet.

Abigail Rigsby *Trident Department Head*



Semper Fi

And Commissioning Graduate



In four years of being at CUNROTC, I haven't seen Semper Fi over 50 members until this semester. However, by changing the structure to push as many opportunities to the squad leaders, Semper Fi became a team, in spite of being a much larger group. This accomplishment is by far what I am most proud of this semester, but in reality, my motivated and capable staff are the ones who actually made it happen. Semper Fi sessions were designed to be competitive among squads and comprehensive among the entire semester. We had made it a point to utilize the experience of the MECEPs as much as possible and emphasize that, only by talking to each other, can you learn about the business of people that is leadership.

My time here has been a great experience, but I am incredibly eager to finish my degree and move on to why I came here, to lead Marines. Finally, I am incredibly honored to be offered the privilege of such.

Ryan Cruz
Semper Fi Company Commander



Commissioning Graduates



Over the course of my (longer than usual) tenure here at CU NROTC, I've learned many things, but nothing more important than that which I have learned about myself. If you let it, college can be an amazing opportunity to grow beyond anything you thought you could be as a kid. As I prepare to embark (haha) on the next phase of my naval career, the best piece of advice I can leave you all with is this: take this time here at CU to figure out who you are and what you want, and once you know that, never take no for an answer. Don't be afraid to walk the long road to get where you're going. The work we do here is worthy, and accomplishing it worthwhile.

Daniel McComas

My past three years here have been an enjoyable experience. As most MECEP's do, I came here thinking I am who I am, and nothing I could learn here would change that. I had one goal, and that was to earn a degree. However, my actual experience here was much different than I imagined it would be. I can honestly say that I learned a great deal from not only my fellow MECEPs, but from the Midshipmen themselves. As far as advice goes, humble yourself, don't be afraid to ask questions, and above all else, have fun while your here. You will soon find out it's not all sunshine and rainbows when you get to the fleet, so live it up while you got the chance.

Christopher Maginnis



New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation is the most important training evolution in our battalion because it is a transition for civilian high school students into college students and aspiring Marine Corps and Navy Officers.



Our mission during NSO was to provide incoming midshipmen with the necessary tools to successfully complete both their academic and NROTC requirements by reaching three primary goals: instilling military demeanor, fostering camaraderie and a sense of belonging, and providing students with best practices and resources for academic success. To accomplish our mission, we developed the now 4/C Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically to provide a better transition into their academic and military career with early wake-ups, multiple PT sessions each day, and testing military knowledge. The 4/C Midshipmen were tested by executing many events throughout the week including a PFA, circuit PT, swim PT, Confidence Course, team building exercises, drill, Ropes Course, a military knowledge test, a formal inspection, and an introduction to marksmanship. The midshipmen and active duty staff did an incredible job and exceeded the standards of carrying out our mission during the week.

MIDN 1/C McLaren, OIC



Wisconsin Meet

The 2017 University of Wisconsin-Madison Fall NROTC Invitational took place October 5th to 8th. The meet is always a great opportunity to engage with other ROTC schools and to make connections with other Midshipmen to carry over to the fleet. The meet offered more than just competitions, such events included: Rock Climbing at Boulders Gym, an evening and lunch social by UW, as well as the Warriors Dinner with Gung-Ho awards.

This year, there were seven competitions: Platoon Drill, Squad Drill, Color Guard, Rifle, Pistol, Urban Adventure Race and new to this year, Flag Football. The CU Boulder Battalion did not participate in Platoon Drill this year, but competed in all of the other events. When all was said and done, Squad Drill placed 4th, Color Guard placed 2nd, Rifle Team placed 2nd, Pistol Team placed 3rd with MIDN Simmonds as Best Rifle and Pistol Shot, Endurance Team placed 6th, Football placed 6th. Overall, CU Boulder came in 4th place.



While CU Boulder may not have dominated the Wisconsin Meet on the score board, the Fall Invitational gave CU a new goal to surpass for the 2018 Colorado Meet. More determined than ever, the CU Buffs are looking forward to seeing the University of Wisconsin Badgers again, but next time it'll be on their own turf at the celebrated, world-class level and highly respected Colorado Meet.

As the OIC of the event, I couldn't be happier with the quality of commitment and enthusiasm each of the competitors displayed not only on game day, but at every single early morning field house practice session and every late night at the range. Every shooting liaison, team captain and staff member made this Wisconsin Meet the best CU Boulder has participated in; it wouldn't have been a success without their efforts and commitment to supporting the teams.



MIDN 2/C Nowak, OIC

Tri-Military Competition



Every year the ROTC units of CU Boulder get together to engage in the Tri-Military competition. This is a multi-stationed, event pitting small teams of each ROTC unit against each other to develop teamwork, raise morale, and instill competition. It is during this time that some of our midshipmen get their first interactions with their Army and Air Force counterparts. Unity and camaraderie is just as essential in our training environments as it is in the Armed Forces. The CU NROTC midshipmen remained courteous and professional throughout the competition. It is clear there is still room for improvement, both in the planning process and the

training regiment, but overall, our midshipmen proved they are versatile and are prepared to conquer any challenge in their way.

MIDN 2/C Rohrich, OIC



Sea Service Ball

The Sea Service Ball was held on Friday, 3 November 2017 in the Glenn Miller Ballroom in which CU NROTC was celebrating the 242nd birthday of the Marine Corps and Navy. The ball was kicked off with the birthday cake ceremony, followed by a speech from our Guest of Honor, Captain Alfred Scott McLaren, Ph.D. After the ceremony, the battalion enjoyed a buffet meal and a night of dancing led by our DJ, MIDN 3/C McMullen.



The dancing was highlighted by a good old-fashioned dance-off between GySgt Hartley and MIDN 4/C Coakley. The ball was a great success, allowing the battalion to connect with both the history and the future of the Marine Corps and Navy.

A huge thanks goes out to all of the volunteers and ceremony participants. The ball would not have been a success without the help from the AV techs, photographers, set-up party, ceremony participants, LT Dawson, GySgt Stockman, and MIDN 2/C Hardy.

MIDN 1/C Fischer, OIC

Veterans Day Run

In order to commemorate the sacrifices made by the nation's veterans, the CU NROTC battalion conducted a run to the Columbia Cemetery. The run is conducted in such a manner that tries to draw attention to the unsung heroes who have served in the armed forces. By placing American flags at each veteran's gravestone at the Columbia Cemetery, the unit not only honors those who have passed but also shows its gratitude to the veterans still with us. The run is directed through parts of campus as well as a portion of The Hill in a public display of the unit's appreciation for the time and sacrifices that the veterans have given to the nation.

This year the run was very successful in drawing attention and paying the proper respect to those who have served. With several special guests joining the formation, the run not only benefited those directly involved in the unit but also those in the community who were seeking a way to honor the veterans.



MIDN 2/C Fie, OIC

