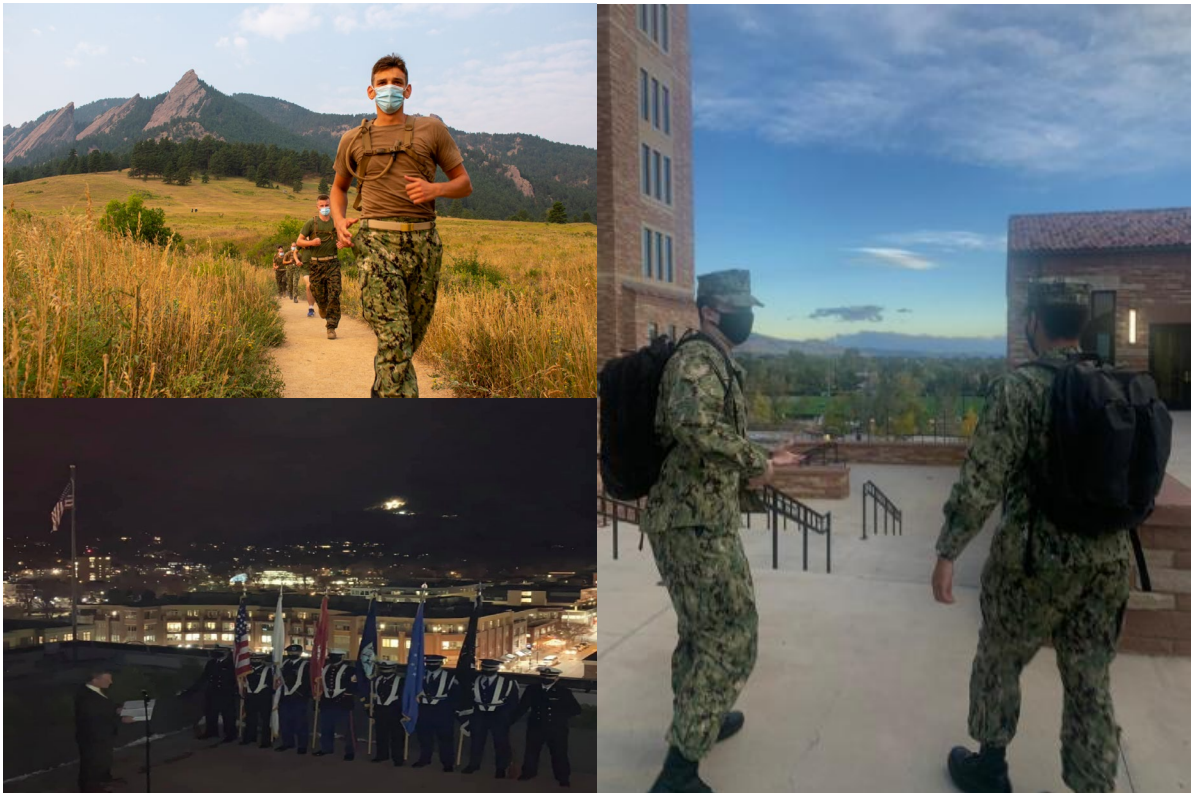


Sidelights

Fall 2020



The University of Colorado Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps 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.



“The stature of our homeland is no more than the measure of ourselves. Our job is to keep her free. Our will is to keep the torch of freedom burning for all. To this solemn purpose we call on the young, the brave, the strong, and the free. Heed my call, Come to the sea. Come Sail with me.” — Captain John Paul Jones

Commanding Officer

Colonel Thomas J. Dodds, USMC



As 2020 comes to an end, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and admiration of the Battalion and staff's efforts during this extremely unique timeframe. Several events were accomplished during this semester, events that over half of the NROTC units across the nation were unable to accomplish due to COVID. When the opportunities for 'in person' events presented themselves, generally we took advantage of those events and excelled. Our 'in person' events and training did not get shut down, primarily because of your exceptional conduct during these events. We all desire to get back to some sort of normalcy to conduct our training to further prepare you for your future as Naval Officers so I ask for your patience as we must abide by state, local, and CU guidelines. Please remember, much of this operating environment is out of our control. What is in our control is how we respond to this environment and make every training opportunity a valuable event. In Spring 2021, my expectation is that every single 'in person' opportunity is exploited and when virtual we continue to ensure relevant training is accomplished.

In addition to our training being impacted by COVID, we need to ensure that we remain cognizant of the health of our sisters and brothers, both mental and physical. This operating environment increases isolation, which can result in increased stress and anxiety. Please ensure that we are reaching out to one another and checking on each other. As I stated in last Sidelights, as a billet holder, you need to understand those in your charge, so please make the effort.

Bravo Zulu to the entire staff, but specifically to LT Dziwulski for being our Battalion Officer over the last year, not an easy task. She has done a great job during this uncertain time. Her efforts were noteworthy as our BN officer, as an instructor and in accomplishing the numerous other duties she is assigned. Thanks LT Z!

Congratulations to those getting commissioned this winter. Job well done!

Battalion, your overall conduct has been great. Have a great, safe, relaxing, and productive holiday season. We will successfully overcome the challenges presented to us in the Spring.

Executive Officer

Commander Regina Kauffman, USN



Fall 2020 was unusual and challenging, to say the least. As a unit, we continued to excel in accomplishing our mission with enthusiasm, ingenuity, and tenacity. Bravo Zulu to all battalion members who achieved milestones and academic successes this semester throughout various learning modes. Excellent job to battalion leaders, planners, and instructors in implementing a new training strategy. The creative scheme of maneuver enabled the Marine Corps and Navy teams to tailor practical NROTC events to small groups, which resulted in accomplishment of training objectives.

Congratulations on a job well done to Midshipman Kramer, Midshipman Lee, Staff Sergeant Soto, and Midshipman Skilbred in leading the battalion, with particular focus on professional conduct, adaptability, and attainment of in-person and remote development and training events. Mission accomplished!

Congratulations to Ensign Wang, Ensign Wallace, and Ensign Jackson, who were commissioned as Naval Officers. Ensigns, you took an oath and committed to support and defend the Constitution, while bearing true faith and allegiance. You are now part of the great Navy and Marine Corps Team which is the foundation of integrated American naval power. Under the Chief of Naval Operations' Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority, Mission

One is operational readiness; a world-class naval force that is trained, educated, and fully prepared to fight and win. Additionally, the Commandant's Planning Guidance emphasizes, "everything starts and ends with the individual," with emphasis on educating and training; instilling core values and a sense of accountability; equipping; and treating people with dignity, care, and concern. As you join the profession of arms and enter the Fleet, remember: mission first, people always!

I applaud the NROTC staff for exceptional instruction and leadership, particularly in establishing the framework to enable battalion achievement. This semester we welcomed to the staff: Master Sergeant Staroscik, USMC, Ret.; Capt Murphy, USMC; and Gunnery Sergeant Matthews, USMC.

As we train Warfighters, we must continue to adapt to our challenging circumstances and to creatively, professionally, and enthusiastically train to the core warfighting competencies. To guide us, we will remain focused on our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and the attributes of Integrity, Accountability, Initiative, and Toughness. Go Buffs!

Words From The Top Four



Battalion Commanding Officer
MIDN 1/C Kramer

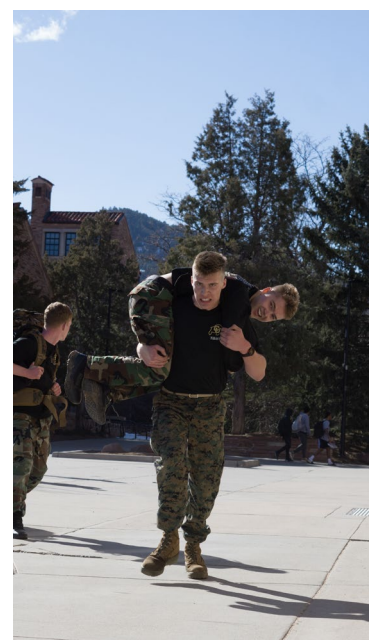
There is no doubt this semester was unusual and challenging for everyone. We faced new challenges and restrictions in an ever-changing environment. The impacts of COVID-19 have been far-reaching and continue to change our day-to-day lives in unexpected ways. That being said I want to recognize everyone for their continued adaptability, resilience, and tenacity over the course of the semester. Everyone took each challenge in stride, and I believe working through this semester has made us better equipped to become future military leaders. I certainly learned a lot, and I'd like

to thank my Battalion leadership team for all their work this semester: MIDN Skilbred, MIDN Lee, and SSgt Soto. This semester would not have happened without you all.

During an extremely unusual time, we were able to complete New Student Orientation, professional development classes for Marine and Navy students, physical training, a Sea Service Ball Ceremony, and many other productive training evolutions! This was only possible due to the hard work and dedication of the midshipmen and active-duty staff involved in the planning and execution of these events. The Battalion's training was structured around my goals for the semester, focusing on mental, moral, and physical training of NROTC students. It was an absolute pleasure to be your Battalion Commanding Officer this semester and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead a group of exceptional young men and women such as yourselves.

Congratulations to the newly commissioned winter graduates who will be moving onto their next training location! I have no doubt that you will all make CU NROTC proud and accomplish incredible things. Please do not be strangers, I know we all look forward to hearing from you as you progress through training.

Over the winter break, I hope you all recognize what you have accomplished and reflect on your goals for the future. This semester was challenging in many ways, but there are undoubtedly greater challenges ahead. Remember, the strongest steels are forged in the hottest fires. Stay resilient, stay motivated, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring.



Spring Colorado Meet
2020

Words From The Top Four



Battalion Executive Officer
MIDN 1/C Lee

This was a particularly challenging semester to be in a leadership position. Despite the challenges of COVID, the fluctuating online environment, and everything else that was thrown at us this semester, I am proud of what every single billet holder accomplished. We had a successful LRC, a successful Sea Service Ball, and everyone still received valuable training.

None of it would have been possible without the hard work of every student in and out of the Chain of Command, and the dedication of the staff.



Spring Awards Ceremony 2018



Battalion Operations Officer
Staff Sergeant Soto

My time as the BN OPSO certainly challenged me in a multitude of ways. The most difficult obstacle to overcome was resolving issues with scheduling, personnel, and training areas in the COVID environment. I was able to overcome this with clear communication with the team along with cooperation and initiative from subordinate leaders. This semester further stressed the importance of clear communication both vertically and horizontally within the chain of command. This semester has been a quintessential example of mission accomplishment. Even with several restrictions implemented by the state, county, university, and unit, the leadership was able to continue its mission in developing company grade officers.

Words From The Top Four



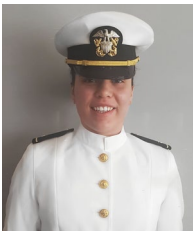
Battalion Sergeant Major
MIDN 1/C Skilbred

My tenure as Battalion Sergeant Major was a rewarding and challenging experience. Although it could be difficult at times having to be the "bad guy" and make unpopular decisions in order to ensure the discipline and performance of the Battalion, the direct impacts I was able to have on the Battalion were very rewarding. A personal highlight to me was the privilege of conducting the Midshipman of the Month boards, in which I was able to recognize the high efforts and exemplary performance of some members of the third and fourth class. While the duties of Battalion Sergeant Major often got in the way of interacting directly with the underclass Midshipmen, save for disciplinary issues, conducting those boards was a great chance to get to know the underclass on a more personal level. Thank you all for your hard work this semester, semper fortis and semper fidelis.



Summer Cruise 2018

Commissioning Graduates



Ensign Zoe Jackson

Hometown: Burbank, CA

Bachelor of Arts: Communication – Cum Laude, Minor: Ethnic Studies and Leadership

First Duty Station: BDOC, Sasebo Japan



Ensign Kara Wallace

Hometown: Beverly Hills, MI

Bachelor of Science: Computer Science, Minor: Leadership

First Duty Station: Aviation Pre-Flight, Pensacola, FL



Ensign Nathaniel Wang

Hometown: Manassas, VA

Bachelor of Science: Mechanical Engineering

First Duty Station: Joint Diving Officer's Course, Panama City, FL

Commissioning Graduates Photos from Past Years



Congratulations Commissionees!

CU NROTC is proud of all the work that you have done while members of our unit. As stated by Col Dodds, "It's time to get it on." Make us proud in the fleet.

Boulder Star Lighting Ceremony

Color Guard Member – MIDN 3/C Hrudka

This semester was one filled with uncertainty about what the world was going to be like the next day. Yet the midshipmen at CU Boulder knew how to keep moving forward even when they faced that uncertainty. Being able to serve on the Joint Service Color Guard for a Boulder and Veterans day tradition helped remind me of why we must have faith in each other above all else. Being able to stand and represent all of the hard work and sacrifice that the United States Military has endured is a powerful feeling. On one hand you realize the struggles past generations overcame to allow us all to be here and that it will one day be our job to overcome whatever the world will throw at us to ensure the protection of what we hold dear. On the other hand, you realize that no matter what is thrown your way, we are not alone. The men and women beside you are also fighting just as hard as you are. And at the end of the day, knowing they have your back, and you have theirs will be enough to overcome anything.

Bravo Zulu to all CU ROTC personnel on a well-executed performance at the ceremony.



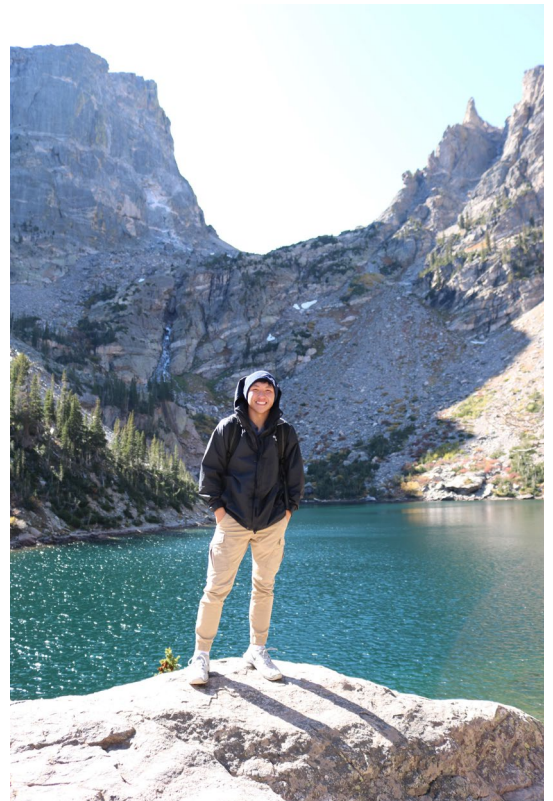
MIDN during COVID-19

The Fall 2020 semester was unpredictable and chaotic for every student at CU Boulder. With restrictions bouncing back and forth, no one knew if their classes would be in person or via Zoom University. Yet throughout all of the obstacles thrown at the midshipmen, nothing hindered their excellent drive and determination to overcome. The following are a few reflections of the unique semester.

MIDN 2/C Joseph Deng

At first, not having to go to campus and go to class seemed great. I would have more time to go workout, do other extracurriculars, and focus on homework. However, as the days went by, it got harder to keep that focus and to pay attention. It really forces you to make yourself accountable and responsible for your learning and your well-being. I was able to do well this year, but even so, it felt like I was not necessarily learning, and more so just doing what needed to be done.

I was really looking forward to this semester being Drill OIC and Squad Leader, to gain some good leadership experience. But the Colorado Meet got cancelled, and most in-person events were cancelled. Thus, most opportunities to really test and enhance my leadership skills went down the drain. However, even with all the lack of in-person training, I was still able to gain some valuable knowledge and experience in the Alpha FEX and in our online/in-person Semper Fi classes.



MIDN during COVID-19

MIDN 4/C Makenzie Daugherty

My first semester at CU Boulder was more of a struggle than I anticipated. I did better and worse than I thought I could ever possibly do. Yet I did enjoy that I always felt like I was accomplishing something. ROTC was challenging, especially with limitations on what we could do. I think NSO is the big one that sticks out for me personally. I really tried to form good habits this semester to try and improve in every area. I had a lot of things work out this semester and a lot of things that did not but that's how life goes.



Fall NSO 2020

MIDN 1/C Rachel Lee

This semester was a challenge academically, but more so in ROTC. BN XO is a demanding billet and the challenges from this semester added to the challenge, but I felt it was successful overall. In addition to ROTC, I have been working diligently to prepare for a Nuclear Power interview which I hope to successfully complete in the spring. This semester was tough but rewarding. I am grateful that we were able to complete successful training despite the challenges we faced.



Spring Commissioning 2018



Spring Colorado Meet 2020

“Stay resilient, stay motivated!” – MIDN Kramer