

SIDELIGHTS

Spring 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.

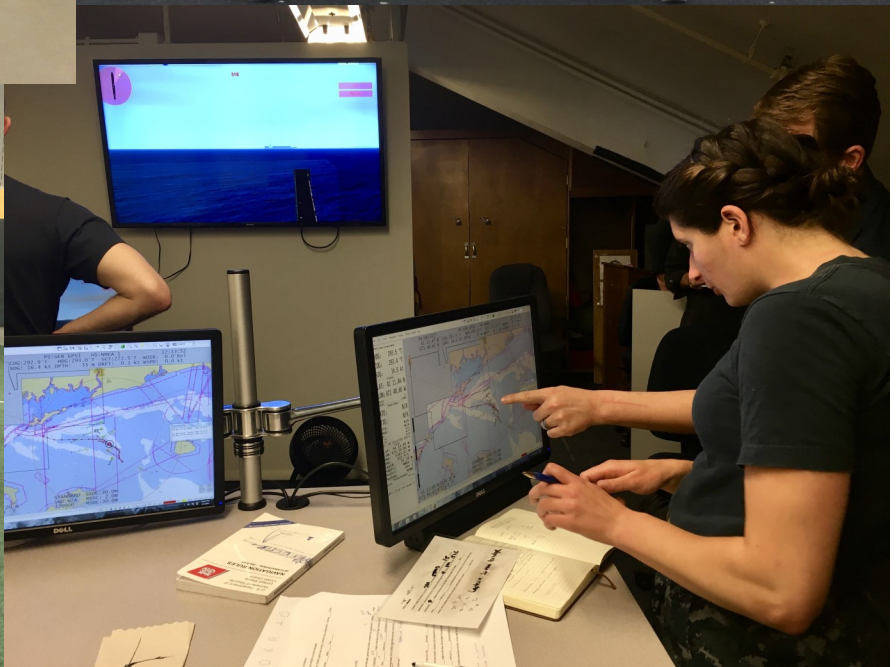
*"Observe good faith and justice toward
all nations."*

Cultivate peace and harmony with all. "

-George Washington

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Commanding Officer

This was an excellent semester for the battalion and the unit; but as always, we can find ways to improve our fighting position. In light of our mission and our responsibility to our services and our Nation, I want to enumerate again the **core traits** that I know will enable us to succeed no matter the circumstances:

1. *We are men and women of character.* *I expect all of us to hold to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Officers, Staff NCOs, and those in leadership billets should be the models for our core values. But all of us, regardless of rank or billet, should strive to live up to the same ideal of character that motivated us to serve in the first place. If we are off track, we should make a plan to fix it and to live up to that ideal. I expect the leaders in this unit to know naval and unit regulations and to enforce our standards through setting the example. Whether on duty or off, all of us know what is right and what is wrong. We all have that sense of “I shouldn’t be doing this,” or “this doesn’t feel right.” Listen to that sense. Cultivate it, and cultivate it in others. Most importantly, act – by speaking up, stopping the action, getting help, etc. As for help, your leaders are always available to you for guidance or for requesting external support. Do not sit idle wishing your leadership knew about the problem – let them know. Leaders in this unit also need to be engaged in each other’s lives and must know when someone is on the wrong path; and I expect leaders to take every effort to help get that person back onto the right one. Who are the leaders in this unit? All of us are!*

2. *We exist to win and always to maintain a winning mindset.* *I’m sure most of us joined the naval service because of our reputation as being the best and for our long history of winning, often against impossible odds. There is something extremely powerful about our esprit de corps and our tradition of winning. Bottom line, our naval service exists to win our Nation’s battles – which is why this unit exists as well. We can never lose sight of this goal. We must train to win. Our training standards should be impeccable, and we must set our goals high and achieve them through intelligence and effort.*

3. *We serve our people.* *Just as we exist to win, we exist to serve. All of us are in the “service,” and we must continually remind ourselves of what “service” means. We have a contract with the people of our Nation. They promise to pay us, clothe us, house us, feed us, and provide us equipment. In return, we train, deploy, and win. It is that simple. We owe our Nation our very best each day, and we must never forget that we serve them. We also serve our juniors, and service runs downhill in this unit. Our rank structure provides us clear guidance for who serves whom. Officers serve the enlisted. Staff NCOs serve junior enlisted. Upper classmen serve the junior classes. All in this unit must never think of it as the other way around.*

4. *We are proud of what we do.* *We are proud of our naval service and our mission, and each of you should be proud of what you do. This unit has a tremendous history of training leaders that have gone on to excel in peace and war, with superb performance on all fronts. Be proud of yourselves for your accomplishments here at the University of Colorado and for belonging to a winning organization. Although we can’t always enjoy every moment of our service, we should always be proud of every moment. And if you look back on moments of which you may not be proud, that feeling probably stems from not living up to the first three core traits listed above.*

As you leave for the summer break, 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.

For our newly minted Ensigns and Second Lieutenants: You are at the controls of your future – hit the fleet with energy and purpose – become masters of your craft. Oh, and find time to enjoy the ride!

Semper Fidelis



Michael J. Gough,
Colonel USMC



Executive Officer

Can you answer this question? From your Commander's Guidance, what are the CO's **top three priorities** for the midshipmen in our program? *cue Jeopardy music 🎵

Hopefully you were able to recall the three. If you were not, chastise yourself appropriately.

1. **Intellectual growth**
2. **An increased number of tools in your toolkit (with no bad habits)**
3. **Energy to thrive in the fleet**

You should be able to recall these if asked. *insert subtle hint

Let's focus on priority one.

Intellectual growth. Does this mean you have your nose in your books 80 hours a week? Most likely not (might depend on the week). However, your academics are a significant portion of that growth. The better educated you are in your major the better you will be able to apply that in the fleet. Let's look at a practical example. MIDN 1/C Nesius is an Integrated Physiology major. One of his classes is Sleep Physiology. Since he will be entering the aviation community he will be able to apply his knowledge directly regarding sleep deprivation and its effects on immune and neural systems as well as circadian rhythms and cognitive function. If he put in minimal effort for that class it would be a waste and lost opportunity to benefit his unit. The aviation community focuses on many areas of physiology but all communities can benefit from a focus on human performance. Think about the effect on your people of strenuous watch rotations on a submarine, the crew of a destroyer maintaining a surge status for two days straight, or a 72 hour assault by a battalion of Marines. The military can't afford the old "2.0 and go" officer....especially since our minimum is now 2.5... but we also face a smaller, resource-constrained Navy and Marine Corps being pressured to do more with less. **We need the highest caliber officers to successfully navigate the way forward.**

I'm not trying to sell anyone on a major rather just highlight one example how your knowledge could improve the execution of your mission as officers. And certainly there will be academic majors that don't relate as directly as this example. As much time, effort, money, sweat, tears, blood....well hopefully not blood....or at least not too much.....as you are putting into this academic opportunity means you cannot (and neither can the USN or USMC) afford to waste it. How well you do here will go forward with you forever.



However, it doesn't stop with your university courses. Your military knowledge, experiences from summer training, experiences from training at the battalion, knowledge of other communities, leadership opportunities, follower opportunities, etc. all add up to your increased intellectual growth. And of course that development won't stop when you leave here.

Your Commander's Guidance compels you to be an active, vice passive, participant in this intellectual growth process. **In service to your country** do not just coast through this experience.

Charles W. Brown
Commander, USN



Battalion Leadership



Leading the battalion this semester has been a pleasure and a privilege. During the entire semester, we have worked to ensure that the battalion's time is spent in a meaningful fashion, eliminating waste and ensuring that every action has a purpose and reason. Moving into the Colorado Meet, much of the battalion's time was utilized training, finding improvement through competition, which culminated in a sweeping victory in both competition and execution. Afterwards, we moved to ensure that our MIDN are properly prepared for their upcoming summer cruises. The strength of this unit lies in its midshipmen, and they have far from disappointed this semester, rising to every challenge and proving that we still produce the best and brightest of Naval Leadership.

The past four years have brought my class from a bushy-tailed group of poorly shaven freshman to a group of young Naval Officers who I am honored to commission with. Their support, and that of the second class, has been instrumental to the success of this semester. The underclassmen have been watching closely, and I have nothing but faith in their ability to maintain the continued success of this battalion for years to come. It is with great pride that I leave this battalion in their capable hands, and with great anticipation that I watch for the tremendous leaders this battalion will continue to produce.

***Erik Biggers,
Battalion Commander***



This past semester has been extremely rewarding as Battalion Executive Officer (BNXO). Receiving this billet has given me the opportunity to help shape the unit, our unit, into a prosperous organization. Typically BNXO has had to deal with haircuts, uniforms, and cleanliness of the wardroom; fortunately this semester has seen relatively exemplary standards.

Along with the standards I have had the opportunity to work with an exceptional group with the Top 4. MIDN Biggers was a natural BNCO. He showed foresight throughout the semester while keeping in check with all midshipmen from 1/C to 4/C. Pairing MIDN Biggers' leadership skills with MIDN Newkirk's organizational skills as Operations Officer made the Top 4 run more efficiently than a Navy Nuclear plant. The team was not complete without our Sergeant Major, MIDN Lealaimatafao, she made sure to keep the midshipmen in check while executing all of our grand master plans.

The entire point of this semester was to ensure we established a purpose to all of our leadership training. I believe this task was completed well through our chain of command. All in all it was a great semester and I would just like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the unit.

***Scott Theulen
Battalion Executive Officer***

Battalion Leadership



This Spring I had the opportunity to serve in the Top 4 as the Operations Officer. The role of the Operations Officer is a bit unique in that it is part of the Top 4, and carries the responsibility of being a prominent leader within the battalion; however, the primary role of the Operations Officer is to collect and disseminate information to the battalion. Other than the Plan of the Week, the role of the Operations Officer is to provide input and support the rest of the Top 4 in their roles as decision-makers for the battalion. One consequence of having a student leadership chain that changes each semester is that the battalion is constantly evolving and improving old and new ideas. As Operations Officer this semester I got to be a part of that process, and contribute to the improvement of the battalion. Working with MIDN Biggers, Theulen, and Lealaimatafao has been in-

credibly eye-opening for me. They are all experienced leaders within the battalion with high expectations for each midshipman individually, and the battalion as a whole. During my time in Top 4, I learned that details are important, effective communication is critical, and decisions are not always easy. As Top 4, we are each very visible within the battalion, and it is our job to be examples of professionalism for the underclassmen. Unexpected events occur all the time, and as leaders it is our responsibility to be flexible and adapt in unprecedented situations. Overall, I am incredibly grateful for the experience of serving as Operations Officer. I learned a lot, grew as a leader, and got to work with some really great people.

Marie Newkirk
Battalion Operations Officer



This Spring I had the opportunity to serve as Battalion Sergeant Major and work alongside MIDN Biggers, MIDN Theulen, and MIDN Newkirk. We decided from the beginning we would try to instill purpose in all evolutions and Battalion events. There were many times we were challenged to learn how to communicate effectively and rely on each other to get the job done. Each of us have different leadership styles and I learned a lot from interacting with the other members of the Top Four. Each week we tried to be united and improve the Battalion in any way we could. This semester we had the opportunity to be involved with one of the most successful Colorado Meets we have held to date, giving us the ability to work with many different members of the battalion in an effort to increase morale, create a good environment between midshipmen, and socialize and learn from midshipmen from schools all across the country. This billet has been a great learning experience and I am honored to have been a part of the Top Four this semester. Working with all aspects of the

battalion has made me realize my leadership strengths and weaknesses and I will use this experience to better myself in the in my efforts to be a Marine Corps Officer. I'm honored to be a part of this battalion and really appreciate the hard work of all the midshipmen, MECEPs, OCs, and staff.

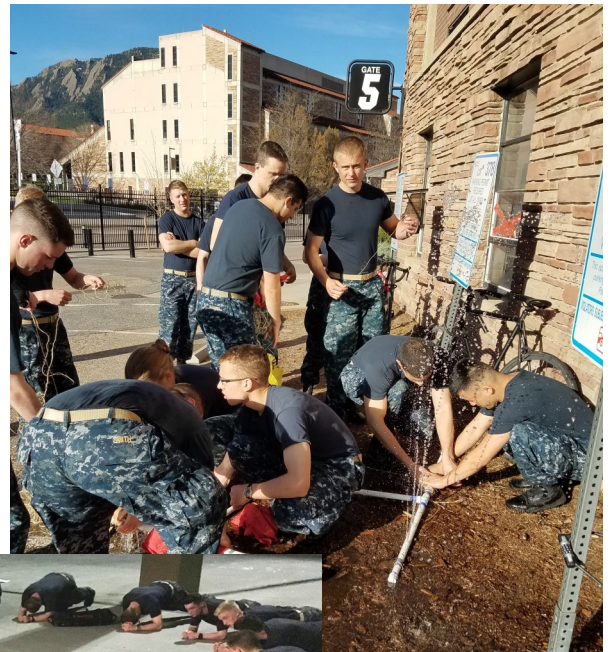
Abigail Lealaimatafao
Battalion Sergeant Major

Trident



One of the biggest accomplishments of Trident Department this semester was being able to adopt our own identity within the battalion. During the first half of the semester Trident learned about the different communities within the Navy from active duty lieutenants with real life experience. The second half of the semester was spent training for Sea Trials, Trident's final culminating exercise for the year. Sea Trials consisted of watch teams operating on the ship simulator, working in an engineering department, manning the bridge, and completing a leadership reaction course. During Sea Trials, midshipmen demonstrated the teamwork, leadership, communication, and practical skills they learned throughout the semester. Sea Trials challenged midshipmen both mentally and physically. The naval training that Trident received this semester will help midshipmen when they embark on their summer cruises, as well as when they commission as ensigns. Trident Department excelled this semester due to the hard work and dedication of each midshipman. I am proud to have been a part of the Trident leadership, and I wish everyone the best as they finish their time as a midshipman and enter into the fleet.

Amber Spawn
Trident Company Commander



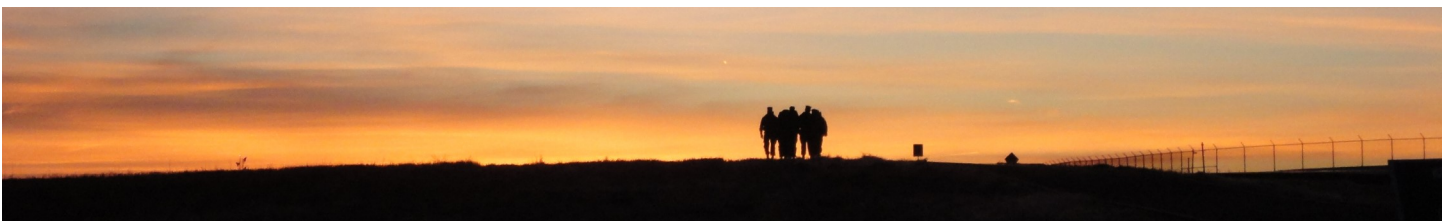
Semper Fi



Building on the success of last semester, the Midshipmen of the Semper Fi Society continued to advance their skills as future leaders of Marines. Our main goals for the semester were to have the Midshipmen learn what the different components of a platoon are, to learn the basic elements of patrolling, and to learn basic land navigation. One Midshipman a week was selected to gather information on one of these topics and share that knowledge with their fellow Marines Options. The gathering and dissemination of knowledge along with the practical application of that knowledge, allowed the Midshipmen to build upon their abilities to communicate ideas and concepts to one another. These basic skills and understandings are crucial building blocks to their development as Marine Officers, which will be tested at Officer Candidate School and in the fleet. Overall it was a successful semester. I am proud of the professional demeanor, intellectual curiosity, and overall growth exhibited by each member of Semper Fi.

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Semper Fi leadership staff this semester. I want to thank those that made this a successful semester: Semper Fi XO MIDN 1/C Cruz and 1st Sergeant MIDN 2/C Pechon. I wish everyone the best of luck in the advancement of their careers, and a special good luck to those going to OCS this summer.

Charlotte Dennis
Semper Fi Company Commander



Commissioning Graduates



I could not have been luckier to be a member of this Battalion. Learning from the active duty staff has been an absolute privilege, and working with my fellow MECEPs and OCs has been a blessing unto itself. What I am most proud of is being involved in the growth of CU's Midshipmen. It has been a honor to complete my studies alongside the future leaders of our Navy and Marine Corps. Lastly, it is important to note that CU's first ever involvement in the PAC12 Championship happened to be this year. No big deal.

Tyler Chittick

These past four years attending CU Boulder as an NROTC Midshipman have been an absolute privilege. Through both the highs and lows, success and failures, I have gained life-long friendships and grown immeasurably, both personally and professionally. Some general advice, don't be afraid to make mistakes, be humble, and always be honest with yourself. Also, make sure you have some fun. Climb that mountain, take that trip, and have that adventure. Sko Buffs.

Nicholas Duquette



I firmly believe that the years I spent as a student in this battalion and university were the most formative of my life so far. The friends, mentors, professionals, and teachers you will get to know here will change you for the better in innumerable ways. This battalion is special for the reason that we let you succeed or fail on your own merit. You are given the tools and training you need, and you are given the leeway to rise to the occasion as a leader. I would encourage anyone here to seek out opportunities to lead as often as possible. You will fail spectacularly from time to time but in those moments you will learn the most. I am proud to graduate from this unit and university and I am proud to have gotten to know so many wonderful people. Sko Buffs!

Ian McGhie

Commissioning Graduates



I have been incredibly fortunate to spend the last four years as a member of the CU NROTC Battalion. I have made great friendships and earned a challenging degree while making some great memories in the process. I've been put into several different leadership positions during my time here at CU and I think it is a credit to our program that I feel ready to commission and conquer new challenges on Active Duty. My advice to my fellow MIDN is to balance your life while you are here and try to learn a little about yourself outside of the classroom as well. Don't be afraid to make mistakes and always strive to become the best possible person that you can be.

Anthony Nesius

Always prove people wrong! If you viewed or categorized as something that you truly are not; show them off! Throughout my time here at CU, facing adversity has been a great challenge that I have learned to cooperate with. It was hard at first, but being able to face my fears and constantly challenging myself has helped me prove many people's first impression of me. First impressions are great, but to truly get to know yourself and your peers is a key feature in how we (as aspiring naval officers) should practice to lead. Practice inclusive leadership in a way of reaching out beyond your comfort zone and reach out to your peers. This could be by helping them out or just talking and getting to know them beyond the identity you see outside their skin. Long story short, do not ever judge a book by its cover when you can uncover so much more than what you see.

Katherine Serrano



I could not be more appreciative of the opportunities that were made available to me as a CU student and a member of the NROTC program during my time in Boulder. The resources available to you as a midshipman, CU student, and resident of Colorado are truly a unique and special combination. Seek them out and make the most of them by asking questions, doing some research, trying new things, and getting outside your comfort zone. Utilize your time here for personal development as a student, leader, follower, and as a human being. That is why you are here. While it is a difficult and constant task to find a balance in NROTC, academics, personal interests, and learning to "flip the switch" on and off between all of these, it is so worth the challenge because they all make important contributions to becoming the best possible you and making the most of your time here.

Michael Severs

Commissioning Graduates



This semester I was tasked with being a Division Officer in our Battalion. This position gave me the opportunity to learn more about leadership and how to interact with my peers in a different capacity. As a DIVO my primary mission was to help prepare midshipmen for their summer cruises. I believe that as a team the Top Four and the Trident Department leadership completed this mission with flying colors. The highlight of this semester was the mock sea trial we participated in. During this evolution we were broken into watch teams and spent time learning the various jobs on the bridge of a ship as well as some motivating team building activities. I know I personally learned more during this exercise than any other in previous years. The quality of the training this last semester is a testament to the quality of the active duty staff as well as the Midshipmen on all levels. Working with the Midshipmen in this unit has been a blast. The lessons I have learned during this semester will prove to be useful in the very near future when I get to my first ship. I am very excited to move on to the Fleet and work on a team of professionals in the world's greatest Navy.

Samuel Williamson

Mesa Ridge JROTC Meet



The Mesa Ridge Drill Meet is an ongoing event which the Battalion is extremely proud of. Being as far from conventional Navy presence as we are, outreach is a significant portion of our secondary tasks at CUNROTC, and the Mesa Ridge Drill Meet is one of our largest events pertaining to this. Every year we travel to Mesa Ridge High School to help them host their JROTC competition, providing staff, judges, and other support to their event. Even as individuals still in training ourselves, it is heartwarming and invigorating to see the enthusiasm these young men and women have for the naval services, and we leave every year having seen the best and brightest from the future generations of naval officers.



Colorado Meet

As one of the largest events put on by the CU NROTC Battalion, the Colorado Meet is an all hands event that requires the hard work and dedication of every member. From the 4/C volunteering to staff competition events and help with hospitality to the 1/C serving as Liaisons to attending units and safety observers for the Endurance Race, everyone played an integral role in ensuring the success of the 2017 Colorado Meet.

There are two aspects to a successful Colorado Meet. The first is ensuring that the event is a fair and challenging completion that draws in NROTC Battalions from across the country and serves as a model event for any other Battalion looking to hold their own meet. Preparations for the 2017 Colorado Meet began in early September 2016. Hours of meetings, planning, organizing, critiquing, and troubleshooting culminated to a near



flawless event on 3-4 March 2017.

The smooth execution of the 2017 Colorado Meet would not have been possible without the support of the Meet AOIC, MIDN 2/C McLaren, the Hospitality OIC, MIDN Shapiro, and the relentless work of all the Competition Event OICs.

The second aspect is fielding competition teams that compete with a winning attitude and are proud to represent CU NROTC. This year, nine Battalions from across the country sent teams to compete in the Colorado Meet. CU NROTC teams won 1st place in the Endurance Race, Rifle Marksmanship, and Squad Drill, placed 3rd in Pistol Marksmanship, and place 4th in Color Guard. The stellar performances by the competition teams led to CU NROTC being the Overall Meet Champions for the first time in the history of the Colorado Meet. This victory coupled with the smooth execution of the meet will without doubt lead

the 2017 Colorado Meet to go down as one of the most successful and memorable events for the CU NROTC Battalion.

Competition Event OICs

Platoon Drill OIC- MIDN Fie
Squad Drill OIC- MIDN Nowak
Drill AOIC- MIDN Camacho
Color Guard OIC- MIDN Wember and MIDN Althouse
Rifle OIC- MIDN Terrano
Pistol OIC- MIDN Johnson
Shooting AOIC- MIDN Hardy
Endurance Race OIC- MIDN Jones
Endurance Race AOIC- MIDN Owings



MIDN Bunn, OIC

Tri-Military Awards



The annual Tri-Military award ceremony is dedicated to the hard work of outstanding midshipman and cadets of all three ROTC branches (Navy, Army, and Air Force) represented at CU Boulder. Each year, members from our community, present awards to over 80 midshipmen and cadets from CU Boulder for their exceptional devotion to ROTC and to their personal studies as they prepare to become future military officers. In addition, the award ceremony is also organized to show our support and loyalty to our community and to veterans across all branches of the military.

MIDN Pinther, OIC



