

Sidelights

Spring 2021



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.



“For in this modern world, the instruments of warfare are not solely for waging war. Far more importantly, they are the means for controlling peace. Naval officers must therefore understand not only how to fight a war, but how to use the tremendous power which they operate to sustain a world of liberty and justice, without unleashing the powerful instruments of destruction and chaos that they have at their command.” – ADM. Arleigh Burke

Commanding Officer

Colonel Thomas J. Dodds, USMC



We have come to the end of a very challenging 20-21 schoolyear and I want to extend my appreciation and admiration of the Battalion and staff's efforts during this extremely unique timeframe. Several demanding and inspiring events were accomplished during this Spring semester; the best events I have witnessed since I have been here. Alpha FEX, at Jacks Valley, was a superb event that progressively trained all Marine Options and MECEPs and closed out a rigorous semester training plan. Sea Trials was also a very challenging event that demonstrated the unit's ability to improvise and tested our Navy Midshipmen's abilities in their core competencies prior to heading out for summer cruise. Additionally, this year's version of the Colorado Meet was a motivating event and was a great kick-off to the Spring semester. Great job to all!

Based on initial correspondence from the University, I believe that many of the restrictions that we currently face will not be in place next year, so we should be able to operate more freely next year. My intent is for greater Battalion integration across the board next year to reinforce the cohesiveness and camaraderie within the unit. With that said, we need to continue to ensure that we remain cognizant of the health of our sisters and brothers, both mental and physical. For all, but specifically the billet holders, it is imperative that we are reaching out to one another and checking on each other. The stress and anxiety that is experienced within the Battalion, was not solely due to our prior operating environment, so please know your people and ensure you are checking on one another.

BZ to the Active Duty staff and our great support staff. After 34 years of faithful and diligent service to this unit and the University of Colorado, Marlene Deutsch, our great university liaison will be retiring. We thank her for all that she has done and wish her well in the future. Thanks Marlene!

Congratulations to those that were commissioned this Spring and those that will be commissioned in the summer. Job well done!

Battalion, your overall conduct continues to be excellent. Have a great, safe, and productive summer season. You successfully overcame the challenges presented this year and I can't wait to see your performance next school year.

Executive Officer

Commander Regina Kauffman, USN



Although Spring 2021 was fraught with challenges, we were successful in training and developing students preparing to be Navy and Marine Corps Officers. In February, a campus run and PT course was extremely motivating in freshly fallen snow. In March, the Marines conducted an exceptional field exercise, small unit leadership evaluations, the leadership reaction course, and practice patrol and land navigation operations. In April, a morale hike at Chautauqua Park was reinvigorating, and we turned our unit into a ship for 18 hours during Navy “Sea Trials”, complete with a navigation simulator, a wet damage control trainer, simulated firefighting, lots of PT and a CASEVAC scenario. Awesome!

Leading up to the culminating events was training in Trident and Semper Fi leadership laboratories, tailored to Navy and Marine Corps objectives and to different levels. Focus for underclassmen was on fundamentals; instruction for upperclassmen was more in-depth. Trident in the Spring introduced warfighting competencies: damage control, firefighting, and seamanship, to prepare for advanced summer training and the fleet. In Semper Fi, underclassmen prepared for the field exercise and OCS, and upperclassmen prepared for TBS and the fleet. In both, 1/C Midshipmen and active duty students took on large responsibility as instructors, benefiting the students and their own professional development. This approach in small groups was complementary to COVID-19 instructional limitations. We had outstanding successes

maximizing opportunities to conduct in-person training in small groups. Mission accomplished!

We had noteworthy speakers. Thanks to Major General W. F. Mullen III, USMC (Ret.) and to Commander K. S. Lippold, USN (Ret.) for meaningful and impactful discussions and lessons.

Congratulations on a job well done to Midshipman Coakley, Midshipman Mita, Staff Sergeant Henderson, and Midshipman Woodworth in leading the battalion. Great job to the Company Commanders, leaders of every level in the chain of command, and the OICs of the commissioning and other events. Too many other leaders and accomplishments to mention here individually. Bravo Zulu to the students who stepped up, mentored, and made a difference, even when others were not looking. Congratulations to ten Ensigns and eight Second Lieutenants who commissioned as Naval Officers, and several more who will commission in the summer. You are reminded of the special trust and confidence that the President and the Nation have placed in you. Welcome aboard!

Fair winds and following seas to LT Seiders and Ms. Deutsch. LT Seiders, USN, will be returning to the Naval Special Warfare community. He was instrumental in the development, training, and integration of all new Midshipmen entering the unit. He provided the highest level of instruction, advising, and counseling. Ms. Deutsch will be retiring after 34 years of devoted service to the CU NROTC unit. A consummate professional, Ms. Deutsch has been an extremely valuable member of the staff, positively impacting the mission and success of staff members, Midshipmen, and active duty students. Bravo Zulu!

I am inspired by our adaptability, creativity, professionalism, and quality of our commissionees, students, and staff members. As we continue to train Warfighters through advanced summer training and Fall semester, continue to focus on the core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and attributes: Integrity, Accountability, Initiative, and Toughness to guide our criteria for decisions and actions. Go Buffs!

Words From The Top Four

Battalion Commanding Officer
MIDN 1/C Coakley



To start, I would like to thank my team members and company commanders for executing our training plans and showing perseverance in the face of adversity considering the COVID-19 mitigation parameters provided by the DoD, Colorado state government, and our campus. Thank you MIDN Mita, MIDN Woodworth, SSgt Henderson, MIDN DeRudder, and MIDN Conroy for your hard work and patience this semester. The curriculum we conducted as a unit this semester was a team effort, and without the contributions of these individuals, and many more, our training would have come to a screeching halt.

The Spring 2021 semester began with several weeks of online training, due to campus closure, and ended with increasing amounts of in-person and large unit evolutions. Our in-person events consisted of two company level evaluations (Alpha Company FEX and Bravo Company Sea Trials) along with an all-hands Colorado Meet and Chautauqua hike, various squad level trainings, drill, and our seniors' commissioning ceremony. While one of my Battalion goals was to increase in-person time, the credit for our training curriculums primarily goes to MIDN DeRudder and MIDN Conroy; their creativity and appetite for excellence drove a phenomenal training regimen that I was proud to facilitate.

I want to extend a very sincere congratulations to the seniors that have commissioned and are off to do great things in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. It has been a privilege and pleasure to watch you all grow from 4/C into Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants, and I am confident you all will make great officers in your respective branches. I urge you to check back in with those that remain at the unit, we will be eager to hear of your exploits and insights to success.

To those with more time at our CU NROTC unit, I hope you learned to appreciate the value of training in-person and the potential that comes out of consolidating such great minds as your own to complete tasks and grow together. During the summer, I implore you to take some time to appreciate that another year has gone, reflect on your personal and professional development from the past year, stay in touch with your CU NROTC family members, and prepare yourself to enter the next semester motivated and engaged. I hope you glean from the example set by those that went before you and improve upon it, and I expect that you will. Fair wind and following seas. Semper Fortis and Semper Fidelis.

Words From The Top Four



Battalion Executive Officer
MIDN 1/C Mita

This semester was extremely challenging for all Midshipmen in NROTC having to balance academics in a spring session that was notoriously strenuous. The perseverance that I, alongside other Top Four members, saw this semester was unmatched compared to past semesters. We managed to pull through with excellent grades and physical fitness all the while conducting some of the best training events that I have seen here in my four years. The Alpha FEX and Sea Trials staff managed to raise the bar even higher than where it was before which is not a statement I make lightly. Furthermore, Battalion events such as the modified Colorado Meet and morale hike were executed flawlessly which in turn fostered comradery and friendly competition in the best way possible. With COVID playing a factor in how we conducted our training, I was amazed with what we were able to accomplish. With restrictions being eased next semester, I have full

confidence in the next Top Four to carry out the duties and responsibilities in order to make the next semester even better than this one. Moving forward, we must seek to motivate and encourage our fellow Midshipmen as we slowly, but surely, work our way out of this pandemic.



Battalion Operations Officer
Staff Sergeant Henderson

As the BN OPSO, I found this semester to be encouraging and motivating as we began returning to more normal operating standards. While there were still obstacles with COVID restrictions, the unit did an incredible job to increase in-person training. The Top Four worked extremely well together, and we accomplished all of our goals for the semester. Clear communication from the staff and company billet holders allowed us to effectively plan and conduct the much needed training after the recent remote learning semesters. Thank you to every Marine, Sailor and Midshipman for the hard work and dedication throughout the semester.

Words From The Top Four



Battalion Sergeant Major
MIDN 1/C Woodworth

The BN SgtMaj/CMC role brought with it many lessons, and an excellent experience to take forward. Working with the Top Four taught me a great deal about leadership and interpersonal relationships. Getting to work with the staff, as well as the Midshipmen to plan and carry out the semester was an excellent experience. The semester went very smoothly considering the dynamic COVID environment, and I was very pleased with the training that we were able to accomplish. The Battalion carried out the two best final exercises that I have seen.

Thank you all for your excellent perseverance, dedication, and hard work this semester.

Commissioning Graduates



2nd Lt Ian Bennett

Hometown: Orange, CA

Bachelor of Arts: Finance and Accounting

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



2nd Lt Parker Bowman

Hometown: Howell MI

Bachelor of Arts: Communication, Minor: Leadership studies

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



Ensign Ethan Conroy

Hometown: Golden, CO

Bachelor of Arts: Economics

First Duty Station: BDOC, USS Gridley



2nd Lt Cole DeRudder

Hometown: Taylorsville, KY

Bachelor of Arts: History, Minor: Leadership Studies

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



Ensign Travis Griffin

Hometown: Anderson, SC

Bachelor of Science: Aerospace Engineering

First Duty Station: BDOC, USS The Sullivans



Ensign Alexander Hein

Hometown: Pittsburg, PA

Bachelor of Science: Mechanical Engineering

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power School, Charleston SC



Ensign Lewis Holliday

Hometown: Englewood, CO

Bachelor of Arts: Russian Studies

First Duty Station: BDOC, USS Makin Island



Ensign Patricia King

Hometown: Sioux Center, IA

Bachelor of Science: Environmental Engineering

First Duty Station: Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, Pensacola, FL



Ensign Noah Kramer

Hometown: St. Cloud, MN

Bachelor of Science: Astrophysics

First Duty Station: Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, Pensacola, FL



Ensign Rachel Lee

Hometown: Houston, TX

Bachelor of Arts: History

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power School, Charleston SC



2nd Lt Vincent Lemke

Hometown: Munich, Germany

Bachelor of Arts: Russian Language and Business Marketing

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



Ensign Benjamin Masters

Hometown: Loveland, CO

Bachelor of Science: Mechanical Engineering

First Duty Station: Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, Pensacola, FL



2nd Lt John Metzgar IV

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science Minor: Business

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



2nd Lt Dain Quaderer

Hometown: Leonardtown, MA

Bachelor of Arts: International Affairs, Minor: Russian language

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



Ensign Danielle Smith

Hometown: Norco, CA

Bachelor of Science: Environmental Design and Architecture

First Duty Station: BDOC, USS McCambell



2nd Lt Eric Thomas

Hometown: Mason, OH

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science, Minor Leadership Studies

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



2nd Lt William Van Pietersom

Hometown: Sun Prairie, WI

Bachelor of Arts: Finance and Real Estate

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



Ensign Connor Woodworth

Hometown: Conifer, CO

Bachelor of Arts: Finance

First Duty Station: Basic Underwater Demolition School, Coronado, CA

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 Spring Graduates!!!



Sea Trials

Written by MIDN 2/C Ford

Sea Trials has always been CU NROTCs' culminating event for Navy Midshipmen, and I had the pleasure of being responsible for the planning and execution of this event for 2021. It was a daunting prospect when I initially received word that I would be the Officer in Charge (OIC), but with great Assistant OICs, helpful Officer and Midshipmen staff assistance, we created an event that I am proud of. Midshipman 1/C Vanlangendonck, 2/C Pietenpol and 3/C Aycok were the AOICs and they were excellent help throughout the planning process and on the day of the event.

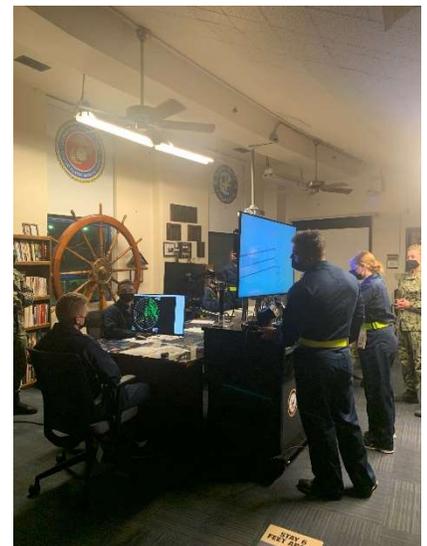


The process of building a Sea Trials event is an extensive one. There are a multitude of steps to take in order to ensure that ideas are thoroughly vetted and approved. It started with choosing the staff, acquiring a vision from MIDN 1/C Conroy and communicating with the Officer OIC, LT Dodge. With the staff in place, the AOICs and I held weekly meetings to come up with ideas and decide on roles. MIDN Pietenpol began working with 1/C Training Officers to create the three Trident events: Firefighting,

Shiphandling, and Damage Control. MIDN Aycok planned the PT and Knowledge events and was also the Safety Coordinator. MIDN Vanlangendonck oversaw Supply, the CASEVAC, and ending PT events. With clearly delineated roles and responsibilities we were able to make effective use of our time and resources.

A major aspect of planning a large event is being able to effectively present it to the staff. In the month prior to executing the event, the OIC and AOICs provided presentations at least 4 separate times, climbing up the chain of command and ensuring the entire staff approves the plan for the event. Every detail was discussed, the OIC and their staff were expected to have answers to all questions. The initial presentations with the Trident Commander and Battalion Commander were used to fully flesh out the event, ensuring it was ready for the XO and CO approval. It was vital to demonstrate that our planning was thorough and fully prepared for execution.

Execution of the event itself was both intense and relieving. There were multiple causes for concern during the event such as the fire alarm in the stadium and uninvited participants causing trouble but seeing the culmination of both this year's training and a semester of planning coming to fruition was outstanding. I highly recommend taking charge of an event like Sea Trials, I learned many lessons and skills during this long process, and I feel more prepared for the Navy because of this event.



Alpha Company FEX



Marine option Midshipmen and active duty MECEP students conducted training at the United States Air Force Academy in preparation for Marine Officer Candidate School and The Basic School. Training included patrol based operations, land navigation, Leadership Reaction Courses and Small Unit Leadership Evaluations. – Written by MIDN 1/C Quarderer



Battalion Events



VX -31 Squadron Visit



Colorado Meet 2021



Trident PFA





“Fair Wind and Following Seas. Semper Fortis and Semper Fidelis!” – MIDN Coakley