

Sidelights

Spring 2019



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 to service our nation.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

-John Quincy Adams



Commanding Officer



Colonel Michael J. Gough

This will be my last Sidelights article as the Commanding Officer of this unit. I look back on my almost 4 years of serving in this job not only with the normal nostalgia associated with moving on, but also with a sense of real accomplishment. Not my accomplishment, but that of the students and the staff. At CU NROTC, we are privileged to produce something that we can measure – something tangible that defines mission success: our new officers.

Each semester, when we swear-in our graduates as commissioned officers in the Navy and the Marine Corps, we get to measure the product this program has produced and judge the merit of our work. Every officer we send to lead Sailors and Marines in the Fleet takes with them the experiences and lessons learned at CU NROTC and makes their own way

from there. I truly believe that the young leaders we commission are prepared to take on the challenges of what comes next. I believe they have the proper set of tools, the enthusiasm to make a good start, and the intelligence and character to succeed as naval officers – a pretty high bar.

So, as I look back on my time here, yes, I am proud of what this team has done. But all leaders should know that there is always a need for improvement, change, and innovation. The new Commanding Officer, Colonel Tom Dodds, will take the reins this summer. I know we are leaving him a good product, but I also know he will lead those that are still in this unit to greater achievement.

For our new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants, I wish you all the best for your follow-on training and first duty assignments. We know that you take with you everything you need to succeed. I am proud to pass on the watch to you!

Semper Fidelis,
Colonel Gough



Executive Officer



Commander Charles Brown

For my last contribution I'm re-upping my favorite Sidelights contribution!

"A college degree is a tremendous investment of time, effort, and money. And at a university of this caliber, it is an opportunity for exposure to first class resources and people. If I can impress upon you one thing with my first Sidelights contribution it would be to TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY!"

I wrote those words in the spring of 2016's Sidelights. These words still definitely hold true in the Spring of 2019 as I head into retirement. But what is missing? What is the money question? It is "How?" There are numerous books, videos, and seminars, with tons of information that tell you how to be successful. I'll write just a bit about a key component of how you can take advantage of your opportunity here.

Discipline.

Easier said than done and it takes a lifetime of practice. How many of us turned our alarm off and decided "I'll work out tomorrow morning" or "I'll just get the notes from....." or "...just one more episode"?? Guarantee we all had some version of that take place; we aren't robots, we're human. That being said some folks out there are better able to get past looking at their running shoes for 17 minutes straight deciding whether or not to hit the trail.

The hardest step is often the first one.

But once you take it you are good. After you make the choice to crack open that book or finally get around to budgeting your finances or going to the gym, work toward that goal progresses. Even if you don't have your most optimum study session or best workout you made headway toward your goals and the next time you'll build off of that momentum. And sacrificing an evening with friends to put in more study is going to feel good when you receive that A or that C+ depending on the challenge you were facing.

The only person you should compare yourself to is you yesterday.

None of us are going to become discipline experts overnight. If the robot next to you has a 4.0, a perfect PT score, and is voted Mr./Ms. Universe (odd only Earth participates) good for them. Ask how they do it. Start small and pick your battles. It's about self-improvement. It could be something as small as reviewing class notes for the day at 1900 each evening or planning all your meals for the week on Sunday. Find small ways to make discipline a habit. I think some guy gave a speech about making your bed ☺. The Captain has a saying on his office door, "Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out!"

Thank you to all the staff and students during my tenure as your Executive Officer. I am confident as I pass the torch for you to carry we are in good hands!

Battalion Top Four



BNCO – MIDN 1/C Fox

This semester, I had the honor of being the Battalion Commanding Officer, working alongside MIDN Miller, Fie, and Hardy to lead the Battalion. It was inspiring to see the hard work and dedication put forth by MIDN, OCs, and MECEPs in planning and executing the various training evolutions. I hope that their hard work will serve to set the example for future semesters and the individuals who will continue to lead and develop the Battalion to its fullest potential. Notably, this semester saw to one of the most ambitious and successful Colorado Meets in our history.

The Colorado Meet allowed us to come together as a Battalion, using teamwork and some friendly competition to develop our leadership and hone the military skills and knowledge we have been cultivating during our time here. To conclude the semester, we conducted some of our most intensive training: Sea Trials and the Alpha FEX. These culminating events were designed to test and reinforce the knowledge gained over the course of the semester, setting MIDN up for success as they prepare for their various summer cruises.

Congratulations to all who are commissioning, and I wish you luck on the next step in your careers as Navy and Marine Corps Officers. To all of those not commissioning, enjoy the training opportunities you will experience during cruise. I look forward to working with you in the future, and seeing the Battalion grow and improve.





BNXO – MIDN 1/C Miller

This semester I had to opportunity to serve on the Top 4 staff as the Battalion Executive Officer. The BNXO is the right-hand man for the BNCO. Luckily, I had an excellent Battalion Commander (MIDN 1/C Fox) to serve under. Her and the other Top 4 members were such hard workers that I had to volunteer for tasks before they would do them. The rest of the Battalion Leadership was so productive that our job was easy. I had an excellent time serving with the rest of the team and being able to engage in weekly meetings with the Battalion Staff.

I feel very confident in the job of the Battalion Leadership, and look forward to seeing the Midshipman under them grow into officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.



BNCPO – MIDN 1/C Hardy

This Spring I had the privilege of being Battalion Command Master Chief, serving alongside MIDN Fox, MIDN Miller, and MIDN Fie. It was an honor to see the dedication of the midshipman, MECEPs, OC, and staff, who all worked hard toward improving the battalion. It was the goal of the Top 4 from early on to increase communication from not only the top down but also from the bottom up to the Top 4. There were several times when as a Top 4 we were challenged as a team and individually, but these challenges were what allowed us to learn the most.

Through these challenges we were able to learn and develop as a team, as well as work to stay united throughout the semester. As a battalion, we put on two outstanding Final Exercises, for the Semper Fi and Trident, both of which have greatly surpassed their predecessors in quality of training and execution. I am grateful to have been a part of the Top 4 this semester, it has allowed me to learn a great deal about leadership but also about myself, my weaknesses and strengths as well as what my leadership style is. I am honored to be a part of this battalion and really appreciate the hard work of all the midshipmen, MECEPs, OCs, and staff.



BNOpsO – MIDN 1/C Fie

Throughout the entirety of the spring 2019 semester, I had the pleasure of being the Battalion Operations Officer. As such I was in charge of scheduling for the entire battalion. This involved ensuring all training evolutions were executed, publishing a POW weekly, and reserving all of the proper facilities. While serving as BNOpsO, the single biggest takeaway for me was the quality of people I had the privilege of working with. Week in and week out team captains, company commanders, and event OICs would have a plan for the coming weeks.

Their ability to look ahead made my job far more enjoyable and taught me just how incredibly capable every single midshipmen and MECEP is in this program. Without the hard work and dedication from those operating below me and above me, my final semester at the unit would have been exceedingly taxing to say the least.



Alpha Company

Alpha Company Commander – SSgt Seitz



I am humbled to have been afforded the opportunity to fill the billet of Alpha Company Commander this semester. With the assistance of my staff and the guidance of Captain Colgrove and Gunnery Sergeant Stockman, the Midshipmen of Alpha Company were afforded the opportunity to utilize the tools taught to them and showcase themselves exceptionally well prior to their journey to Officer Candidate School. Alpha Company's FEX at Blitz Paintball Compound and the Recess Factory was molded after SULE 1 at OCS. All in attendance were afforded the opportunity to be evaluated on their conduct of Night Land Navigation, watch standing procedures, Movement to Contact under load, Fireteam and Squad level formations, fire and maneuver, and 5-paragraph order dissemination.

I could not be more proud of the tenacity, performance, and motivation I have seen throughout the semester from the Midshipmen of Alpha Company. Congratulations to all of the Second Class Midshipmen who are attending OCS this summer. And to the Spring Commissionees; Oohrah and Semper Fidelis.



Bravo Company

Bravo Company Commander – MIDN 1/C Benson



This semester I had the great opportunity to be your Bravo Company Commander. The Fall 2018 semester had a large focus on learning about the different communities in the Navy. This semester, we focused on preparing the third- and fourth-class midshipman for Navy Sea Trials. More specifically, we focused on rules of the road, damage control, general knowledge, drill, visual communications, swimming skills, and small unit leadership.

All of these skills were tested in our own unit Sea Trials. Watching the third and fourth class grow in all of these areas was the best part of my job. All of the credit goes to my fellow 1/C and OC's for putting together such an awesome final exercise. I would also like to thank LT Wagner for a successful semester. Good luck to all those attending Big Navy Sea Trials this summer!

For me, the biggest key to success during my four years was figuring out how to manage academics, ROTC, and the fun things. It is easy to let the first two consume you, but don't forget to take advantage of what the university and the state of Colorado has to offer. Have some fun. I am extremely proud to graduate from this unit. I have, no doubt, met lifelong friends. I would like to thank the Naval Academy for rejecting me. Sko Buffs!



Commissioning Graduates

MIDN 1/C Kirk



These four years taught me substantially about the person I want to become. The unit is a great place to grow, but more importantly to fail, and learn from your mistakes. So, do just that, push yourself beyond what you thought your limits were, learn from the staff and upperclassmen, and do the best you can. Remember school is a laboratory of learning, growing, and failing. So, use it to develop yourself as an individual and as a member of NROTC.

MIDN 1/C RIAL



I am so grateful for my four years of NROTC at the University of Colorado. It seems like it was just yesterday when there was 50 of us waiting in line for New Student Orientation to begin, I could have told you from day one who would be the people on stage commissioning today. I am thankful for the lifelong relationships I have built with those commissioning today. I am thankful for the staff's shared wealth of wisdom and I am thankful for my family and loved ones for their tough love at times and endless support. I am humbled and excited to take what I have learned from my experiences here in Colorado to the fleet as a 2nd Lieutenant.

MIDN 1/C Jones



My time here at CU NROTC has been an incredible experience. Over the past four years I have had the opportunity to not only make the greatest friendships but also see a lot of the country. Coming here provided the opportunity to go to the Wisconsin Meet, cruise in San Diego, and of course OCS in Quantico. The friendships made here will definitely last a lifetime, and I am looking forward to the next chapter. I appreciate the hard work that everybody puts into this battalion, from the staff to all of the Midshipmen. Take advantage of this amazing unit, university, and city. Sko Buffs and Semper Fi!

SSgt Flanagan

Few things have given me greater honor than being selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program and being able to come to the University of Colorado Boulder NROTC to grow and serve young future leaders in the Navy and Marine Corps. Over the past four years, I have been privileged to grow with and teach some of the finest officers that soon will take charge and lead those of their own. From seeing our Color Guard grow and improve each year until they took 1st place at the Colorado meet to the numerous Semper Fi FEX's, stadium clean-ups, and securities, the young men and women from this unit continue to impress me. Their drive and spirit have been inspirational to me as I begin looking forward to my next phase in the Marine Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant and I look forward to bringing that same energy to the Marines I will hopefully lead in the future.



OC Lapham



My 3 years here at CU NROTC have been extremely rewarding and enjoyable. This command is truly a leadership factory, allowing individuals to test their skills while leading peers in an environment that allows for mistakes. Coming from an enlisted background has provided me some unique insights into what I think makes a great Officer. My time here at the unit has confirmed and reinforced those ideas and I think one, in particular, is worth sharing.

An old Army 1894 Officer Manual stated that enlisted men are "cunning and sly" among some other interesting words. I would agree to that particular part in the sense that enlisted personnel can sense insincerity and disingenuousness. You cannot fake service and sacrifice to the enlisted men and women under your leadership. You will get exposed and lose all credibility. True service to them must be authentic and genuine in every aspect.

I feel honored and privileged to have been selected into the STA-21 program and fortunate to have attended such a great university and NROTC program. I look forward to commissioning and seeing familiar CU NROTC faces as fellow Officers in the fleet. "If you can't get out of it get into it!"

MIDN I/C Nowak



I couldn't have asked for a better class to commission with or a better Battalion to get me through these past four years. It's been four years of hard LRC's, rainy stadium clean ups, long Battalion runs and lots of laughing with my class! Through it all, my class has always been the reason why I'm cheeing, no matter if it's the middle of the night, raining, or we're running with 50 pounds on our backs through Jack's Valley... for the second time. I can't wait to see where the Navy and Marine Corps will take everyone and I'm so thankful I have this motley crew to begin this crazy adventure with! Thinking back to that sunny Monday morning in August, I like to think I made seventeen-year-old Midshipman Candidate Nowak proud. But I would definitely tell her to not take things so seriously, everything's going to work out in the end.

MIDN 1/C Althouse



My time at the University of Colorado and with the Naval ROTC unit were formative to say the least. I was challenged to my physical and mental limits and grew tremendously. I will cherish the bonds I made with my fellow midshipmen forever. From commissioning through all of the trials that college gave me, my friends were what made this program exciting. I am brimming with excitement for my naval career and thankful for the opportunities that this unit has given me.

MIDN 1/C Kirschner



Four years at the University of Colorado has taught me how big the world truly is and how far we can go as humans and as individuals. I didn't go far from home for college, but I've been taught countless valuable lessons about openness and accepting diversity from wherever it presents itself. My professors have given me the technical knowledge to succeed and grow intellectually, and my friends have given me experience and love and something to look forward to even in the hardest of moments. On top of that, four years as a member of CU NROTC has taught me what it really means to be held to a different standard and how to handle much more responsibility and obligation than the average college kid. Late nights and early mornings have been a constant, but I am so grateful to have gone through everything with the friends surrounding me. I certainly wouldn't be where I am without them. If there is something I'd suggest after all this time, it's that involving yourself in as many different things as possible is

an excellent opportunity to broaden your horizons and keep things interesting. There are a lot of different kinds of people in ROTC, in engineering, and on the dance team I've been on, but the culmination of who I am comes from all three of those things together. I couldn't be more grateful for my education and experience here, and I'm excited to see where life takes me from here.

MIDN 1/C Hild



As a midshipman at CU NROTC, life is different than what the average college student experiences. You become accountable to a team from the first day. You are challenged by midshipman and staff to become a better person physically and mentally. When I started as a freshman, I found ROTC challenging to adapt to, but because of those challenges, I've grown as an individual, a follower, and a leader. There were times when I questioned my decision to join ROTC, but after studying abroad junior year, I found myself eager to return to this remarkable group of people who hold each other to a high standard. The people here are some of the best I've ever met. I am thankful for the mentors and friends I've gained, and I am honored to be commissioning alongside an exceptional group of my peers.

MIDN 1/C Owings



At my time here at CU NROTC I've learned a great many things. I've learned humility in the face of success and resilience in the face of failure. I've also learned from those who led me and those I was supposed to lead. I'd say I learned more from that latter group.

All in all, I want to thank everyone that helped me along the way, and I want to thank the people I mentored. I learned more from you than anyone else.

Thank you!

Colorado Meet

Event OIC – MIDN 2/C McLaren

“The Colorado Meet was a great experience of teamwork, perseverance, and dedication for everyone involved with the planning, execution, and competition teams. Colorado’s Victory was the icing on the cake of a team effort that put together a great meet.”



Awards Ceremony

Event OIC – MIDN 1/C Zimmer

The following Midshipmen displayed excellent performance during their time thus far at Colorado Navy ROTC. Their efforts were rewarded with multiple awards and scholarships provided at this ceremony.

- MIDN 4/C Quintana
- MIDN 3/C Conroy
- MIDN 2/C Spitzer
- MIDN 1/C Rial
- MIDN 4/C Hubbeling
- MIDN 3/C Holliday
- MIDN 2/C Morrissey
- MIDN 1/C Fox
- MIDN 1/C Althouse
- MIDN 2/C Zimmer
- MIDN 1/C Kirschner
- MIDN 1/C Miller
- MIDN 3/C Lee
- MIDN 3/C Masters
- MIDN 3/C McClain
- MIDN 2/C Wallace
- MIDN 1/C Camacho
- MIDN 2/C DeLong
- MIDN 2/C McLaren
- MIDN 3/C Woodworth
- MIDN 1/C Fie
- MIDN 2/C Aldrich
- MIDN 4/C Nicholas
- MIDN 3/C Thomas
- MIDN 2/C McGuire
- MIDN 1/C Kirk
- MIDN 2/C Jackson
- MIDN 3/C DeRudder
- MIDN 2/C Lacroix

These Midshipmen lead the way for their peers to reach a higher standard and exceed the goals they've set for themselves. The 1st Class present on this list will carry their exemplary performance to the Fleet and set the example for the new Midshipmen that follow them.



MIDN 1/C Fie receives the
Military Order of the World Wars Medal



MIDN 2/C Wallace receives the
Military Officers Association of America Scholarship

