

Sidelights

Spring 2022



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



“Have a good and safe summer”



Executive Officer

Commander Regina Kauffman, USN

For my last Sidelights, I will highlight the CU NROTC staff, who continues to make the magic happen.



Mrs. Jenn Kaaoush: Program Administrator



Mrs. Kaaoush is pictured with her husband and youngest child.

Ms. Jenn Kaaoush is the CU NROTC's Program Administrator, which is the NROTC unit's University Liaison. She provides needed support for students and staff in coordinating with the University. She has gotten to know some students through working on the Colorado Meet and through scheduling coordination. She is a great resource for planning events and for anything campus related. She joined the NROTC unit because she loves working with students, even if it is just talking and hearing about challenges and milestones. She can also relate because her son is in college. Ms. Kaaoush has a military husband and three kids. She rides bicycles, motorcycles, and dirt bikes. She is a CrossFit enthusiast, and she came in third in a recent regional competition. She enjoys that with CrossFit, there is a community of people doing hard stuff and struggling together, supporting, and encouraging each other.

Ms. Kaaoush was in the U.S. Army, in the Signal Corps. She liked the camaraderie of working with teams, meeting new people, and travelling. She recently worked at embassies in a community liaison role; she supported the local community, but she also got to work with coalition, foreign military, and joint military forces. Ms. Kaaoush's favorite part was the community effort towards the missions, which included crisis management, refugee coordination, and diplomatic relations. She said, everyone had a specific job and focus area, and each department had its own efforts to support mission accomplishment.



Ms. Kaaoush emphasizes that she is here and available for students, in case you want to stop by to talk.

LT James Wagner, USN: Instructor, Nuclear Submarine Officer, and 3/C Advisor



Our newest active-duty staff member is LT James Wagner. LT Wagner is a Submarine Officer. His last tour was with Carrier Strike Group Five (CSG 5) and embarked onboard the USS RONALD REAGAN, CVN76, as Submarine Operations Officer, coordinating exercises between the strike group and submarines, foreign and domestic. Prior to that tour, he was assigned to the USS HAWAII, SSN-776. LT Wagner achieved an Associate Degree in Mathematics, Physics, and Pre-Mechanical Engineering from Northeast State Community College, and he achieved a bachelor's degree in Mathematics.

LT Wagner completed three deployments, to the South China Sea and other locations. During the last deployment, he provided overwatch support for the withdraw of troops from Afghanistan. LT Wagner has already been selected as Department Head on a submarine, which is a very competitive selection. LT Wagner enjoys the opportunity to continue to serve the nation, and he also enjoys the invaluable training and experience that the U.S. Navy has to offer. He is happy to be in Colorado because he likes being near the mountains. In his free time, he takes care of his cat, and he enjoys snowboarding and rock climbing. He is working on a Master of Science in Materials Engineering.

In Spring 2022, LT Wagner taught Naval Engineering Systems, and he oversaw the Spring 2022 commissioning, in which VADM Koehler, Commander, Third Fleet, was the guest speaker and commissioning officer. He also is the Command Managed Equal Opportunity Officer, Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor, Suicide Prevention Officer, Academics Officer, the Summer Training Coordinator, and Nuclear Accessions Officer. In Fall 2022, LT Wagner will serve as the Trident Officer, overseeing all Navy training.



LT Mikaela Robbins, USN: Instructor, Surface Warfare Officer, 2/C Advisor



LT Mikaela Robbins is the staff Surface Warfare Officer. She was assigned to the USS PORTER, DDG 78, in Spain, and she was the ship's Navigator, responsible for safe navigation and for planning and executing all operations. Before that, she was assigned to USS SHOUP, DDG 86. She worked in the Engineering Department. LT Robbins commissioned at the U.S. Naval Academy. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering.

Onboard USS PORTER, LT Robbins spent time as part of a Surface Group conducting presence operations in the Arctic Ocean and Barents Sea for the first time in 30 years, alongside the British Navy. She also spent time in the Black Sea and East Mediterranean Sea. Onboard USS SHOUP, she conducted a Fifth Fleet deployment and a Seventh Fleet deployment in the Pacific area of operations, coordinating with a Coast Guard law enforcement detachment in support of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In 2016, she participated in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), which consisted of 25+ countries participating in combined naval exercises near Hawaii.

LT Robbins enjoys working for Sailors and leading her divisions. She was always proud when she was able to have a hand in helping Sailors succeed, be picked up as Chief Petty Officer, be selected for an advanced school, or reach back out for a mentorship connection. LT Robbins especially likes driving ships. She is still having fun in the Navy, and she also likes the opportunity to travel and meet people. While life as a Naval Officer can be challenging, she says that getting to help and develop the Sailors makes it worth it. LT Robbins already is slated to be a Department Head onboard a surface ship after this tour. She specifically aspires to be a Chief Engineer or Weapons Officer, to be in a hands-on leadership role.

At CU NROTC, LT Robbins is the SWO Instructor, the Scholarship and Awards Officer, the Sexual Assault Prevention Representative, and the instructor for the Navigation course and Naval Operations and Seamanship course. During Spring semester, she was the Trident Advisor, responsible for overseeing Navy training. She enjoys talking with students and seeing them learn and grow over time. She likes to learn about their lives, answer questions about the fleet, help students develop into Naval Officers and help them meet their goals. She also enjoys the mountains of Colorado, where she can ski and learn to snowboard.



Ms. Kaaoush, CDR Kauffman, LT Dziwulski, LT Robbins

LT Shelby Dziwulski, USN: Instructor, Aviation Officer, and 4/C Advisor



LT Shelby Dziwulski is the staff Naval Aviator. She went to the University of Maryland and earned a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. She commissioned at George Washington NROTC. Her first sea assignment was to HELSEACOMBATRON TWELVE (HSC-12) in Japan, forward deployed onboard USS RONALD REAGAN, CVN76, where she served as the Assistant Operations Officer and Administrative Department Head. While flying with HSC-12, she deployed to the Pacific area of operations five times in support of Commander Task Force 70 and participated in Operation KEEN SWORD, Operation TALISMAN SABRE, Joint Exercise VALIENT SHIELD, and Maritime Counter Special Operations Exercise. She was

the only first-tour Aircraft Commander selected for the Direct-Action Detachment in support of the President of the United States during the historic 2018 Denuclearization Summit in Singapore.

Throughout her deployments, LT Dziwulski enjoyed memorable ports of call, including Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, and Guam. She has been to 25 countries, between professional and personal travel. She had a great time flying helicopters, she is proud of her naval service, and she is a strong believer in military or public service to one's country. She also touts that the Navy has

great opportunities for a baseline of financial stability, camaraderie, teamwork, and leadership skills that you cannot get anywhere else. She said that life in military service can be short or long; regardless, it is a foundation and a steppingstone for the rest of one's life.

LT Dziwulski finds it rewarding when she hears from CU NROTC ENSs and 2ndLTs, particularly about their career milestones, achievements, aviation assignments, and even life questions. She enjoys giving students the advice that nobody ever gave her and helping to elevate them just one step above where she was. Similarly, she enjoyed leading Sailors and then watching them do great things inside and beyond the military. She especially enjoys the role of 4/C Advisor, so that she can advise and mentor the 4/C Midshipmen as they are beginning their military careers. LT Dziwulski has a passion for teaching. When she taught the Naval History and Introduction to Naval Science courses, she enjoyed teaching the students about the relevance to military service and seeing them learn and develop throughout the semester.

In August 2017, LT Dziwulski attended TED Global, a prestigious conference held in Tanzania where world leaders and thinkers discussed prominent issues. She was then invited to give a TEDx talk on privilege and unconscious bias and delivered her talk in June 2018 at her alma mater. Her talk is featured online and is used for equal opportunity training in both the civilian sector and the military.

Capt Sean Murphy, USMC: Marine Officer Instructor, Battalion Officer, Advisor



Captain Murphy is pictured with Gunnery Sergeant Matthews at the FEX.

Capt Sean Murphy is the Marine Officer Instructor. As the Battalion Officer, is the staff liaison with the battalion. He instructs Marine Corps Semper Fi Training and prepares Marines and Marine-Option Midshipmen for Officer Candidate School and The Basic School. He taught Evolution of Warfare in the Fall and Fundamentals of Maneuver Warfare in Spring.

Capt Murphy graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and commissioned through NROTC. After TBS, he was assigned as a Ground Intelligence Officer. His training included the Infantry Officer Course, Scout Sniper Unit Leaders Course, and Ground Intelligence Officers Course. With 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, he deployed as a Rifle

Platoon Commander with Forward Deployment Program-East, Okinawa. Captain Murphy was Assistant Intelligence Officer, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, and deployed as part of the Black Sea Rotational Force in Romania under Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa. He was assigned as the Battalion Intelligence Officer with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, in Twentynine Palms, California. He deployed as part of the Ground Combat Element for the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command, in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

In the Marine Corps, Capt Murphy enjoys being surrounded with like-minded people who see a purpose in what they are doing, including preparing future leaders for service to the nation. Capt Murphy is motivated by interacting with, teaching, and learning from the CU NROTC students. He also enjoys helping them develop to take on leadership roles and preparing 2ndLTs for small unit leadership roles. His favorite NROTC training event is the Marine Corps Field Exercise (FEX).

Capt Murphy has a wife and two boys. He is working on a Master of Business Administration and will graduate in Summer 2022.

GySgt Jeremy Matthews: Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, 4/C & 3/C Advisor



Gunnery Sergeant Matthews is pictured with his wife and children.

GySgt Jeremy Matthews mentors in all manner of discipline, drill, color guard, and ceremonies. He assists in instructing Semper Fi Marine Corps training and instruction. He also helps to teach introductory 4/C Naval Science classes and advises students.

GySgt Matthews joined NROTC staff in March 2020. His Military Occupational Specialty is Motor Transportation Maintenance Chief. He was last assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, at Twenty-Nine Palms, CA, where he served as a Company First Sergeant. GySgt Matthews was a drill instructor from 2014 to 2017, in San Diego. He enjoyed training new recruits. He views this tour at CU NROTC as the next step in progression from training entry level enlisted recruits. In recruit training, enlisted recruits are instilled with the foundational level Marine Corps knowledge and culture. In NROTC, from day one, the students are expected to build on their

leadership skills and academic aptitude to prepare and develop for service to the nation as Marine Corps and Navy Officers. GySgt Matthews enjoys being part of that journey for the Midshipmen and active-duty students. GySgt Matthews wants his legacy in the Marine Corps to be training his replacements and future leaders. He hopes to play a small role in shaping the development of the next generation of warfighters. GySgt Matthews has a wife, three daughters, and a son. He is working on his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He will graduate in Spring 2023.

Mr. Jerry Weymiller: Supply Technician



Mr. Jerry Weymiller is our Supply Technician. He has been in this role at CU NROTC for a little over three years. He works tirelessly to ensure that the NROTC unit, including all of the students and staff, are resourced with the appropriate materials and equipment to perform the training and instructional mission of the NROTC unit. He is responsible for all the inventory and distribution of the materials and uniforms. He also manages all the budgetary, procurement and scholarship tuition processes. These are large responsibilities.

Mr. Weymiller worked for the Veterans Administration before this job. He was previously in the Navy as a musician. He was a Trumpet Instrumentalist and instructor in the Navy Music Program. He also worked a lot in Supply when he was in the Navy, and he jokes that he was one of two people who you would want to remain in good standing within a unit (e.g. the supply representative and the cook).

Mr. Weymiller said his favorite thing about the Navy was his duty stations, which included: Virginia Beach, Pearl Harbor, and Italy. Here at CU NROTC, he likes his service role; he said it makes him feel good to help the students whenever possible and helping them to make their tour a success. Mr. Weymiller loves the environment of CU and Colorado. He likes the vibe of the area. He enjoys fly fishing, overlanding, adventure travel, and exploring the woods. He also enjoys good music of all kinds.



Mr. Jerry Weymiller and Mr. Mark Staroscik are pictured at the commissioning of Ensign Stetz, Sep 2021.

Mr. Mark Staroscik: Human Resources Assistant, Administrative Specialist



Mr. Mark Staroscik began work at CU NROTC in August 2020, in the middle of the pandemic. He was assigned as a Human Resources Assistant / Administrative Clerk who is responsible for all administrative and personnel matters. He supports many types of administrative needs to assist the students and make their time at CU NROTC successful. He is responsible for medical requirements, special duty physicals, pay issues, summer cruise assistance and other administrative requirements. He performs many functions to help Midshipmen and active-duty students at CU NROTC to prepare for fleet service once they graduate and commission.

Mr. Staroscik was in the Marine Corps for 22 years, and he retired as a Master Sergeant. He served as a KC-130 Navigator. He was based at MCAS Cherry Point, NC; MCAS Miramar, CA; MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan; NAS Pensacola, FL; and Stewart AB, NY. For three years, he was assigned to the Blue Angels, the Navy's flight demonstration squadron. He served as a Navigator on Fat Albert, the C-130 support aircraft for the Blue Angels, which also performed in the air shows. His worldwide deployments included: multiple times to Incirlik, Turkey, for Operation NORTHERN WATCH; Brindisi, Italy during the Kosovo Conflict to support Operation ALLIED FORCE and Operation NOBLE ANVIL; and Bahrain and Djibouti, Africa supporting Operation ENDURNG FREEDOM missions. He participated in military exercises in: Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Italy, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Mr. Staroscik has taught some Leadership and Management classes in the Naval Science Department. As an example, he told a story of how, early in his career, during his deployment to Brindisi, Italy, the lead Navigator gave him all the responsibility to do the planning and coordination to move the deployment from Italy, to Germany, then on to Incirlik, Turkey for a follow-on deployment. This experience helped him to grow and develop as both a Navigator and a leader. About his time in the Marine Corps, he was proud at the opportunity to serve our country. In his youth, he was always interested and fascinated with aviation, so he was excited at the chance to fly military aircraft. He also enjoyed the camaraderie of his Marine Corps aircrewmembers, traveling the globe, and meeting people from around the world.

Mr. Staroscik loves coming to work, for the camaraderie and getting to work and interact with active-duty military personnel again. He enjoyed his 22 years of active-duty service, and now he is enjoying his time here at CU NROTC, with the chance to assist the NROTC students in getting their careers off to a successful start.



Mr. Gary Lovato: Human Resources Assistant, Administrative Specialist



Mr. Gary Lovato is the Human Resources Assistant, a.k.a. administrative “jack of all trades”, at CU NROTC. He has been on the CU NROTC staff since September 2009. He started as an Administrative Assistant, and then changed to Human Resources Assistant. Prior to this job, he worked at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, handling Air Force bonuses. He also spent some time at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, in Denver. Mr. Lovato joined the U.S. Army in 1983. He started out as active duty. He transitioned to the Army Reserves in 1986, then to Army National Guard, and then again to Army Reserves. While he was in the Army he worked in diverse occupational specialties and jobs, such as: field artillery surveyor, property book noncommissioned officer (NCO) in a combat engineering company, a radiologic technologist in a medical clearing unit and in a combat support hospital, and a combat medic. One of his memorable experiences was running a full marathon in Luxembourg in summer of 1984, representing Baumholder Germany while stationed in Idar-Oberstein Germany. He was one of three chosen to represent and show Army colors. He not only completed it, but he also enjoyed the very green mountain scenery and pushing himself to the limit. He retired in 2009 from military service.

From being in the Army and National Guard, he learned adaptability. Here at CU NROTC, he has adapted to and enjoyed the dynamic environment with the NROTC enterprise and in the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) domain, which he says, “keeps you on your toes.” Mr. Lovato is our subject matter expert on many administrative and personnel functions. He likes seeing the students and how they are from all different walks of life. He likes hearing the diverse reasons NROTC students choose University of Colorado Boulder NROTC as a commissioning program.



Corporal Sid Gustafson, USMC

Corporal Sid Gustafson, USMC (1971 – 1973) has been an honorary CU NROTC member since 2003 . He was recognized this semester for immeasurable contributions he made to the students and staff. He inspired motivated, and mentored the finest future officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. He could often be found conducting physical training along side the students, he conducted the Navy and Marine Corps physical fitness tests, he did the Veterans’ Day Memorial runs and many training events. He is always willing to mentor and listen. He has been a dependable friend, Shipmate, and Marine. He was lauded for positively impacting the staff, Midshipmen, Sailors, and Marines of CU NROTC. Bravo Zulu and Semper Fi, Sid!



Corporal Sid Gustafson was presented a token of appreciation by MIDN 1/ C Jake Chalenko.

A Look Back

Some of you were here before COVID-19 and had “normal” semesters. Some of you checked in during the pandemic, or in Fall 2021 when things started to return to “normal”. When COVID-19 hit in Spring 2020, this limited training and in-person opportunities during that semester and in subsequent semesters. From Fall 2020 through Spring 2021, the NROTC unit continued to operate and train in the COVID-19 environment. There were some periods when academic instruction and training were conducted remotely or in a hybrid manner. Therefore, we adapted our training and instruction and took advantage of “in-person” training opportunities when able. In the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, CU NROTC was fully in-person, and the battalion was back to business as usual, working hard to train several days a week.

This semester, the battalion accomplished a Marine Corps Field Exercise at the U.S. Air Force Academy Jack’s Valley, a Navy Sea Trials exercises at CU Boulder, a stadium cleanup, and The Colorado Meet. The Colorado Meet was an ROTC invitational competition in which 12 ROTC teams competed in a knowledge competition, an endurance race, rifle shooting, pistol, color guard, platoon drill, and squad drill. It showcased our skills, inspired camaraderie, built leadership, and strengthened future Naval and Marine Corps Officers. Many Midshipmen are looking forward to continuing to train and having some great experiences while on summer training cruises or at other advanced training.



Bravo Zulu to the Battalion, BNCO and Top 4, Company Commanders, OICs, and leaders at all levels. You accomplished a lot, and you, Midshipmen, OC, and MECEPs, have a lot to be proud of.

Congratulations to the new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants for your achievements, your service to the nation, and your commitment to support and defend the Constitution. On the topic of leadership, I heard one of the best quotes from CDR Carlin Callaway, USN (Ret.), CU NROTC Class of 1997: **“Be the leader you want to follow.”**

Check out these CU Boulder Today articles about some of our accomplishments this Spring semester:

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2022/04/07/cu-naval-rotc-conducted-marine-corps-field-exercise>

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2022/04/20/cu-naval-rotc-completes-sea-trials-exercise>

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2022/03/08/cu-naval-corp-proudly-hosts-national-rotc-event>

Thank you

To Colonel Dodds, Commanding Officer CU NROTC -- *Thank you for your leadership. To the Staff -- Thanks for all you do. Your hard work and dedication make all the difference. Your commitment to the students and the Navy and Marine Corps is inspiring.* To Friends and Supporters of CU NROTC -- *Your support is greatly appreciated. Whether you have been a guest speaker, mentored the students, gave your time to help us, facilitated support from the University, donated to the NROTC foundation fund, provided scholarships or awards, or assisted in other ways, you have our deepest appreciation for developing future Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Thank you!* To MIDN, OC, and MECEPs -- *It has been an honor to be part of your journey. Best wishes as you prepare to enter the fleet as Naval Officers. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.*

CDR Regina “Reggie” Kauffman, USN



Colonel Dodds and
CDR Kauffman.



ENS Glantz, CDR
Kauffman, ENS Mita.

The Jim Haberzetzle and Cress Bernard Scholarship for Friendship, Character, and Determination; and The Class of 1966 Award



Commander David Cummings, MIDN Lillie McMullen, MIDN Hannah Carlsen, MIDN Dominic Danos, Mrs. Mary Haberzetzle, and Captain Cress Bernard.

On 12 April 2022, Captain (CAPT) Cress Bernard, USNR (Ret), Mrs. Mary Haberzetzle, and Commander (CDR) David Cummings, USN (Ret), along with family members and friends, visited the CU NROTC battalion. CAPT Bernard and CDR Cummings spoke to the NROTC battalion.

CAPT Bernard talked about gallantry, self-sacrifice, and friendship in the Korean War. He told an impactful, historical story of Ensign (ENS) Jesse Brown and Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Thomas Hudner, who flew together as wingmen in VF-32, embarked aboard the USS LEYTE. During the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, in December 1950, ENS Brown and LTJG Hudner, were flying as part of contingent off the Korean coast. ENS Brown’s airplane was hit by a Chinese bullet, and he crash-land on a snowy North

Korean mountainside. LTJG Hudner deliberately crash landed his airplane nearby to try to save his friend. However, LTJG Hudner was unable to free ENS Brown from his crashed plane before he perished. LTJG Hudner was awarded the Medal of Honor for his selfless act. CAPT Bernard also talked about Major General O.P. Smith, USMC, who was the Commanding General of 1st Marine Division, and how he saved his division from annihilation in North Korea by, “advancing in a different direction”.

Captains Haberzetle and Bernard met as Naval ROTC midshipmen at the University of Colorado Boulder in the early 1960s. It was during this time that the seeds of an unlikely friendship-between a diligent, disciplined student and a boundary-pushing rebel-were planted. Both shared an abundance of character that remained unrestrained by the discipline and order of military training. That hard-working student, Jim Haberzetle, went on to be a submarine officer and Cress Bernard served as a fighter pilot; both held reserve commands and ultimately retired as Captains. Their friendship serves as a reminder and testament that the relationships forged at the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps are enduring and meaningful, and that, always, character counts.



The Jim Haberzetle and Cress Bernard Scholarship Fund for Friendship, Character, and Determination award was established in celebration of the friendship shared by Captain Jim Haberzetle, USNR (Ret.) and Captain Cress Bernard, USNR (Ret.) This scholarship was awarded to MIDN 2/C Hannah Carlsen and MIDN 2/C Domonic Danos. The Class of 1966 Scholarship, presented by CDR Cummings, USN (Ret.), was awarded to MIDN 2/C Lillie McMullen.

CU NROTC is very grateful to CAPT Bernard, Mrs. Haberzetle, CDR Cummings, and the benefactors of the Class of 1966 Scholarship for their generous contributions to CU NROTC students.

Commissionees



Words From the Top Four

Battalion Commanding Officer

MIDN 1/C Chalenko



The 2022 Spring semester was an overall success. Students feel adequately prepared to properly represent the Boulder NROTC unit and effectively train on their summer cruises and selections. Those commissioning feel ready to carry their high level of education and upstanding training performance onto their first duty stations. My team and I could not be more pleased with the professionalism displayed whilst executing events from in-house culminating training evolutions, to hosting upwards of ten

schools from across the nation for our annual Colorado Meet competition. The training tempo was high this semester and students were pushed out of their comfort zone. We witnessed a tremendous amount of growth out of the unit as a whole, from the freshman learning the training material with fresh eyes, to the upperclassmen engaged in teaching the training curriculum. The company-level staff members are the heart of the Battalion, and their execution of training built a successful foundation for future curriculum to expand on. Valuable lessons have been learned and will be carried forward to constantly improve the battalion, but the level of readiness and expectation will not change. The purpose is to train men and women capable of leading sailors and Marines, and that is exactly what we will continue doing. Bravo Zulu to all those involved in the 2022 Spring semester at Boulder NROTC.

Words From the Top Four

Battalion Executive Officer

MIDN 1/C Deng



In Spring 2022, we planned, trained for, and executed multiple events that demonstrated the Battalion's commitments to valuable training experience. We started out with the NSO Instructor Screener, a first-of-its-kind event meant to screen and evaluate the MIDN instructors who would set the example and lead incoming 4/C for NSO. The event's success is due to the leadership and planning of MIDN 2/C Riley, the OIC for the event. A month later we would have the CO Meet, the largest event of the semester, where 10 schools from all around the country would come to compete. For 2 years, this event had been cancelled due to COVID-19, however, under the supervision and management of MIDN 2/C Danos, the event was a great success that left a deep impression on participants and volunteers alike. Another month, we would see FEX and Sea Trials take place back-to-back. The training that the Battalion had went through up to this point would culminate in these two events. SSgt Soto as FEX OIC and MIDN 2/C Vandersmith as Sea Trials OIC planned training exercises that gave MIDN and MECEPS excellent opportunities to practice the skills they had learned throughout the semester. We all owe the OICs and their respective staff gratitude for their time and effort in planning and leading these valuable experiences for the Battalion.

As the semester comes to an end, and the summer draws closer, I would just like to say to the Battalion to rest up and enjoy the upcoming break; to suffer at OCS, to enjoy Summer Cruise and CORTRAMID, and come back to the Fall Semester with renewed energy and determination to improve upon the past.

Words From the Top Four

Battalion Operations Officer

SSgt Feise



The 2022 Spring semester was challenging and rich with opportunity for growth. The first two weeks of the semester were conducted virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. We then experienced a few shifts in training due to inclement weather. These interdictions, early in the semester, tested the resiliency of the top 4's ability to communicate laterally and vertically, between student leadership and staff. The battalion and company leadership exercised fluidity and a determinable effort to accomplish the mission. From my perspective, all major events crushed their respective intent.

The Colorado Meet was planned and executed exceptionally well. The New Student Orientation Screener has provided the battalion with 11 Midshipmen who possess the potential to become highly qualified instructors for the 2022 NSO. Alpha and Bravo Company's culminating events were effective in evaluating key billet holders, and preparing Marines, Sailors, and Midshipmen for their future as officers. The Spring 2022 semester provided a transparent and valuable look into the way we conduct training. Looking to the future, we have valuable and actionable after actions, which will be utilized to continuously improve the way we train at CUNROTC.

Words From the Top Four

Battalion Command Master Chief

MIDN 1/C Ford



I had the privilege this Spring semester of being the Battalion Command Master Chief and working with the other Top 4. Starting with the tail end of the Covid restrictions from the University, we worked extensively to ensure MIDN, and Active-Duty Students would come back in person and renew our training tempo.

Semper Fi and Trident both worked very hard this semester, concluding with the very successful Sea Trials and Alpha FEX events.

Working with all the event OICs and seeing the semester take shape through their efforts was a pleasure. It would be impossible to have these large events without many hours from them. This semester I learned a lot about leadership and command presence. I greatly value my time in this billet, both as a learning experience and as a test of four years of training. I will work hard to pass what I learned here along to the next BNCCMC and take it to the fleet.

Alumni Highlight

Kyle R. Dedrick, CDR, USNR (ret)

CU Class of 1990

They called us the “Top Gun” Class. It was one of the largest groups at Naval ROTC at CU, Boulder, in August 1986 and roughly four years later, the “Top Gun” movie came out. Our careers and lives, however, would turn out to be characterized by some of the most remarkable real-life events imaginable. Over the course of our college careers and Navy training at CU, Boulder, we saw an attack in the Arabian Gulf against USS STARK, the end of the Cold War and the start of a new war in Iraq known as Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm. At the same time, we cheered as the Colorado Buffalo Football Team marched to a National Championship in the Orange Bowl. ‘Talk about an emotional rollercoaster!



CDR Kyle Dedrick (Right) and LtCol Kenny McRostie (both CU Buffs), Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Fall 2010.

The Class of 1990 went on to experience, directly or indirectly, a multitude of U.S. military operations and actions in The Middle East, Somalia, The Balkans and even on American soil, with the horrific events of 11 September 2001. These events, of course, led to more of us engaging in conflicts and operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, as we prosecuted a Global War on Terror (GWOT). My personal experiences did not include actual combat, but I was directly involved in Naval and Joint operations in the Arabian (Persian) Gulf during Desert Storm, peace negotiations at the Balkans nations’ “Dayton Peace Accords” and GWOT-related operations in East Africa. Many of my Shipmates and Classmates experienced direct combat operations, and, sadly, some did not survive. You’ve heard or read the words “Freedom is not free.” Me, my classmates and shipmates can attest to this reality.

The defense of American values, our Constitution and our way of life is an ongoing task and challenge that requires our nation’s best minds, hearts, bodies, and spirits. It’s possible to become discouraged by this “never-ending” nature of global tension and conflict. The concept of “perpetual war” is not something any of us wants. I, however, am encouraged for the future by the caliber of future Naval Leaders that CU NROTC continues to train, educate, and mature – manifested in the Buffs that I read about in “Sidelights” and on CU NROTC social media platforms. Our nation’s strength starts with these individuals – it starts with you.

I retired from Naval Service on 1 Jan 2019, having served 13 years active and 15 years reserve as a Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) officer. That brings us to 2022. A year that sees more global challenges and threats to freedom and democracy. This is also the year that the film “Top Gun: Maverick” is being released. As the Global War on Terror kept us occupied, other entities like China and Russia grew in strength, for the past 20+ years. We now find we must re-master and improve our Navy’s undersea warfare capabilities.

I, by the grace of God and by the technical, tactical, and strategic proficiencies of our Navy, survived my real-life adventures to write this article you’re now reading. Tom Cruise survived his Hollywood adventures to achieve fame and to finally make a sequel to “Top Gun”. I’m reminded that survival and success in the long run depend largely on our personal resilience (mental, physical, emotional and spiritual), which really comes with knowing ourselves, knowing our Sailors and Marines, and knowing our limits. It comes with knowing we are a team, and that we support each other in achieving the mission, regardless of the mission type. We never have to “go it alone”. Resilience also comes with remembering that we (and our fellow service members), while strong and capable – are still human.

This is where the lessons of “12 O’clock High” come into play – you can’t serve your Sailors and Marines if you haven’t first attended to your own well-being. One of my Navy mentors, CAPT Ithan Zimmer, was a big movie buff (no pun intended), and he liked to remind us to approach every challenge and mission with two questions taught to him by Hollywood: (1) What happens if we do nothing? and (2) How do we want this movie (or reality) to end?

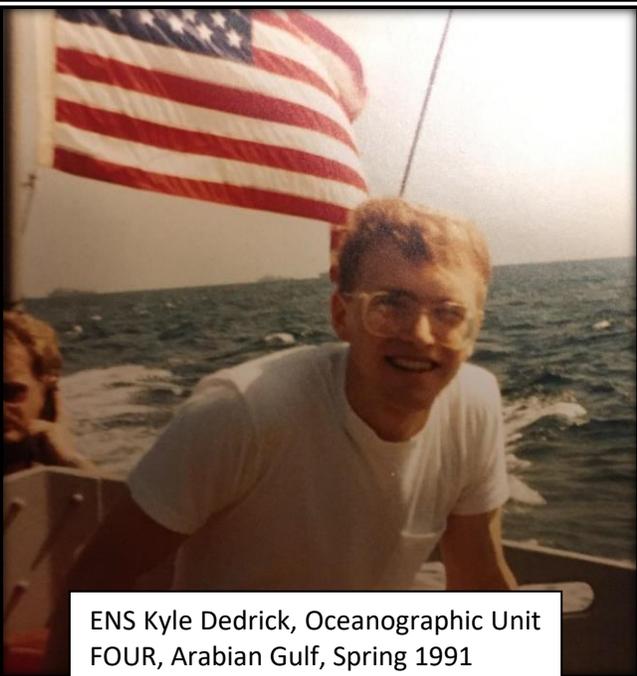
I know Tom Cruise must feel proud of his movie career after 36+ years of hard work and dedication. And I couldn’t feel prouder of my time spent training and learning to become a United States Naval Officer among the greatest people our Nation has to offer, at the greatest University in our Nation. The opportunity to write this article that might be read by my fellow Buffs, and our Nation’s future Navy and Marine Corps Leaders, is my “Oscar”. Thank you for your service, Navy-Marine Corps Buffs!! Stay vigilant, head on a swivel, take care of yourselves and your Sailors and Marines; and keep charging with confidence that the knowledge, skills, and abilities you have earned at CU form the cornerstone of your careers and lives.

Fair winds, following seas!!

Stay in touch ... and Go Buffs!!



MIDN 1/C Kyle Dedrick and MIDN 1/C Christopher Freer, CU, Boulder campus, May 1990



ENS Kyle Dedrick, Oceanographic Unit FOUR, Arabian Gulf, Spring 1991



ENS Kyle Dedrick, Mr. Vice, Naval Eastern Oceanography Center, Norfolk, VA, Summer 1992

Commissioning Graduates



ENS Ford

Hometown: Lemoore, CA

Bachelors in Science: Economics

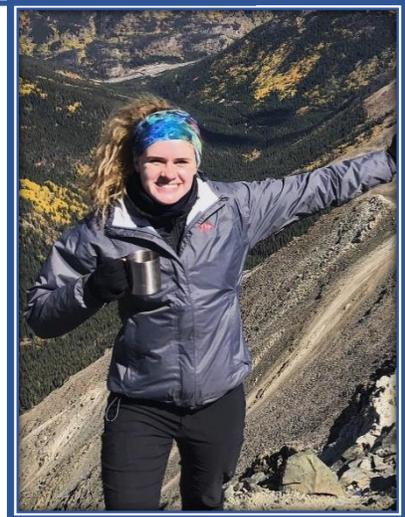
First Duty Station: Pensacola, Florida

ENS Early

Hometown: Willowbrook, Illinois

Bachelors in Science: Geography, Sports Media and Leadership Studies Minor

First Duty Station: Pensacola, Florida

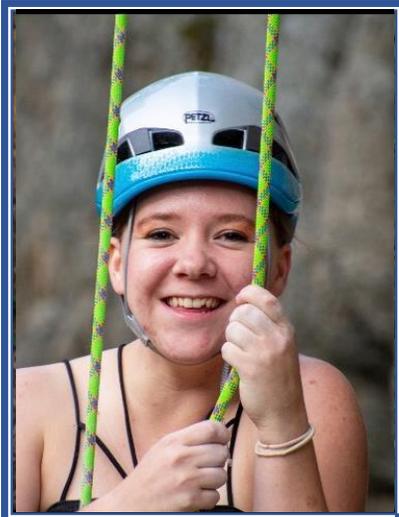


ENS Cancio

Hometown: Concord, MA

Bachelors in Science: Mechanical Engineering

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power School, Charleston, SC



ENS Nicholas

Hometown: Longmont, CO

Bachelors in Science: Anthropology, Minor in Leadership Studies

First Duty Station: Japan

ENS Chalenko

Hometown: Portage, MI

Bachelors in Science: Integrative Physiology

First Duty Station: San Diego, CA



ENS Pietenpol

Hometown: Fort Collins, CO

Bachelors of Arts: Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences

First Duty Station: Pensacola, Florida





MIDN Smith

Hometown: Yokosuka, Japan

Bachelors Of Arts: Political Science

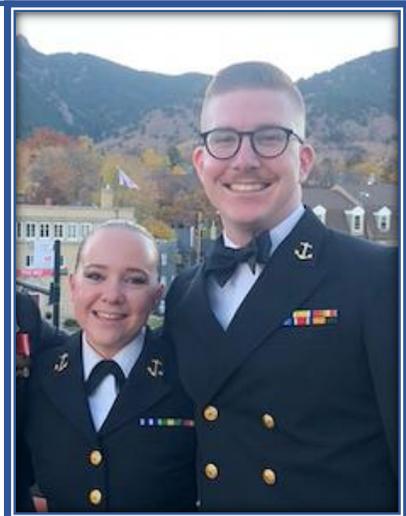
First Duty Station: **TBD**

ENS Vanlangendonck

Hometown: Land O Lakes, FL

Bachelors in Science: Aerospace Engineering

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power School, Charleston, SC



ENS McLaughlin

Hometown: Gibsonia, PA

Bachelors in Science: Chemical and Biological Engineering

First Duty Station: Pensacola, Florida



2nd LT Deng

Hometown: Sunnyvale, CA

Bachelors of Science: Computer Science

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA

2nd LT Jackson

Hometown: Fort Collins, CO

Bachelors in Science: BA Finance

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



2nd LT Lewis

Hometown: Ramona, CA

Bachelors in Science: Political Science/ Leadership Studies

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA





2nd LT Soto

Hometown: Lyons, OR

Bachelors in Science: Business Administration with an emphasis in Leadership

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA

2nd LT Cash

Hometown: West Salem, WI

Bachelors in science: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA



Congratulations All Commissioning Graduates!!



Awards and Scholarships

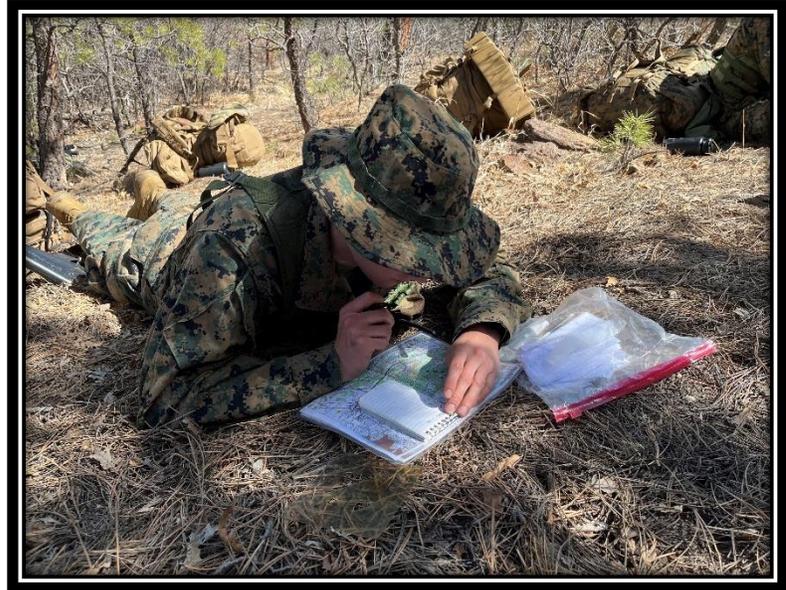
The following is a list of awards and scholarships that were awarded in Spring 2022 semester.

American Legion Medal for Military Excellence:	MIDN Emerson Schroeder MIDN Sam Kirschenbaum MIDN Domic Danos MIDN Pierson Mosichuk
The American Legion Medals for Scholastic Excellence:	MIDN Adam Albritton MIDN Kyle Elligott MIDN Bryce Austin MIDN Alejandro Cancio
The Arapahoe Daughters of the American Revolution Senior Recognition:	MIDN Holly Nicholas
The Mountain Rendezvous Daughters of the American Revolution Recognition:	MIDN Allison Early
The Armed Forces Comm-Electronics Association Honor Certificate:	MIDN Annelene Belknap
The Daedalian's Flight 11 Scholarship:	MIDN Anna Stoltz
The Daedalian's Flight 18 Scholarship:	MIDN Keith Bliss
The Daughters of the American Revolution:	MIDN Anna Stoltz
The Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America:	SSgt Brandon Jackson
The General Society of the War of 1812:	SSgt Ethan Martinez MIDN Emily Nay
Arleigh Burke Chapter Military Officer's Association of America Medal:	MIDN Jack Eddington MIDN Rees Box
Arleigh Burke Chapter Military Officer's Association of America Scholarship:	MIDN Mark Walvoord MIDN Emerson Schroeder
Denver/Mile High Chapter Military Officer's Association of America Scholarship:	MIDN Domic Danos
The Military Order of the Purple Heart:	MIDN Evan Schulte
The Military Order of World Wars - Bronze:	SSgt Andrew Snyder
The Military Order of World Wars - Silver:	MIDN Colin Hayes

The Military Order of World War - Gold:	MIDN Daylen Riley
The National Sojourners Award for Americanism:	MIDN Owen Vandersmith
The Reserve Officer's Association Recognition:	MIDN Makenzie Daugherty MIDN Lillie McMullen MIDN Jacob Ford.
The SAME Denver Post Scholarship:	MIDN Keith Bliss
The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Award:	MIDN Jake Chalenko
The Sons of the American Revolution Recognition:	SSgt Joey Bowman MIDN Bryce Pietenpol
The USAA Spirit Award:	MIDN Cameron Tullie
The First Command Most Improved Award:	MIDN Andrew Dang
The STRIPES Scholarship:	MIDN Diego Pitones MIDN Katherine Fritsch MIDN Casondra Heiss
The Captain Robert Long, USAF, Scholarship:	SSgt Luis Ramos MIDN Anna Stoltz
The Richard Brown Scholarship:	MIDN Colin Hayes MIDN Erik Hrudka MIDN Emerson Schroeder
CU NROTC's NFCU All-American Nominee:	MIDN Keith Bliss
CAPT Bernard/CAPT Haberzette Scholarship for Friendship, Character, and Determination:	MIDN Hannah Carlsen MIDN Dominic Danos
The Class of 1966 Scholarship:	MIDN Lillie McMullen
Navy League Exemplary Leadership Award:	SSgt Zachary Soto
The CNO Distinguished Midshipman Graduate:	MIDN Bryce Pietenpol
Alumni Sword, donated by CDR Carlin Callaway, USN (Ret.):	MIDN Allison Early
The USMC 2ndLt James J. Cathey Award:	SSgt Brandon Jackson
The Arleigh Burke Sword was awarded to:	MIDN Jake Chalenko

Spring Field Exercise

From Friday, April 1, through Sunday, April 3, more than 50 Marine Corps students took on the Spring Field Exercise (FEX) in Jacks Valley in Colorado Springs at the Air Force Academy. During the weekend Midshipmen (MIDN) and MECEPS



practiced land navigation, communication, squad, platoon and fireteam movements in a practical application. All the skills and competencies learned through the semester were put to the test during the weekend.



Underclassmen honed on their basic and fundamental skills.

Every underclassman got a taste of what operating in a small unit environment is like.

Upperclassmen took what they had learned previous years and applied it to small unit leadership and lead their teams through hard obstacles and objectives.

Spring Field Exercise

The highlight of the three-day evolution was the Small Unit Leadership Evaluation, otherwise known as the SULE, which tested one's ability to lead a squad through a mission, overcoming obstacles and defeating opposing forces.

Thankyou event OIC SSgt Soto and AOIC SSgt Nardi for putting this event together. If it was not for the long-term planning of logistics and mapping out the event this would not have been possible.



Spring Sea Trials

This Spring's Sea trials was a huge success. The Event OIC, Midshipmen Vandersmith and event AOIC, MIDN Elder, put together and revamped sea trials this semester. Sea Trials took place from April 8th through 9th and was a 14-hour event meant to induce stress and test the skills that Navy option midshipmen learned over the semester.



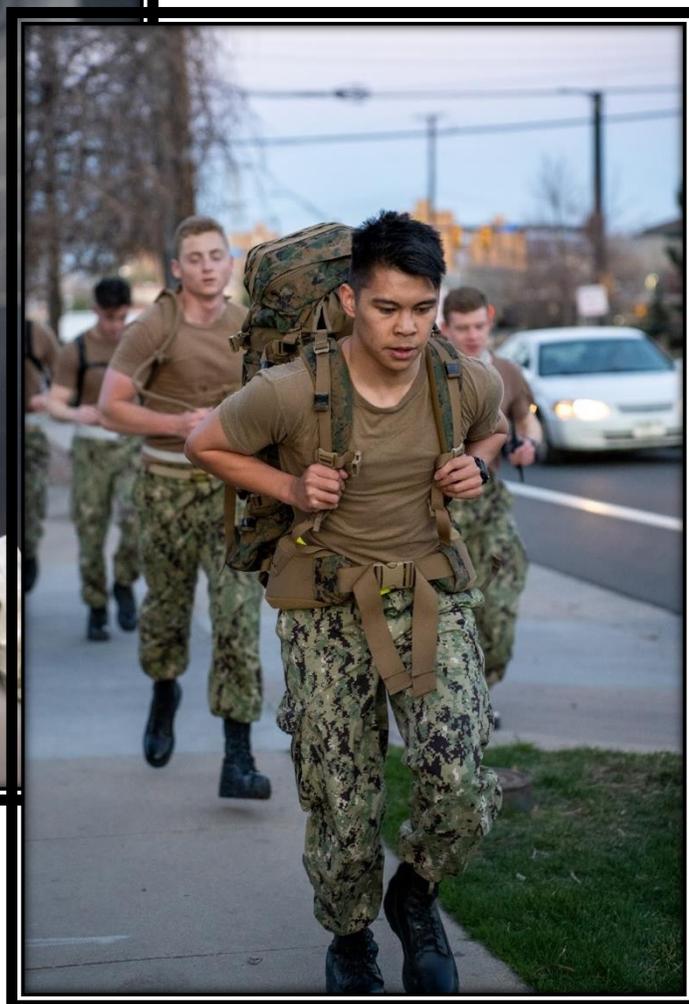
Midshipmen started their Friday night off with a hefty physical evolution came to be known as 'The Grinder' by some midshipmen. 'The Grinder' was a total of three hours long and consisted of a run to Chautauqua Park from campus. Squads took turns carrying a 30-pound pack up the mountain and back.

After the long PT evolution MIDN turned to the practical application of skills learned through the semester. This included firefighting and damage control, ship navigation, leadership, and communication. The MIDN staff did a great job

Spring Sea Trials

preparing for the event. This year hosted new challenges like shoring and an improved pipe patching simulator for the midshipmen to hustle through.

MIDN 2/C Vandersmith stated that he is “very pleased with the Midshipman’s performance over the weekend. I was impressed with the staff; they spent a lot of time putting in work for this event and it went amazing. This is probably the best Sea Trials we have had”.



Colorado Meet



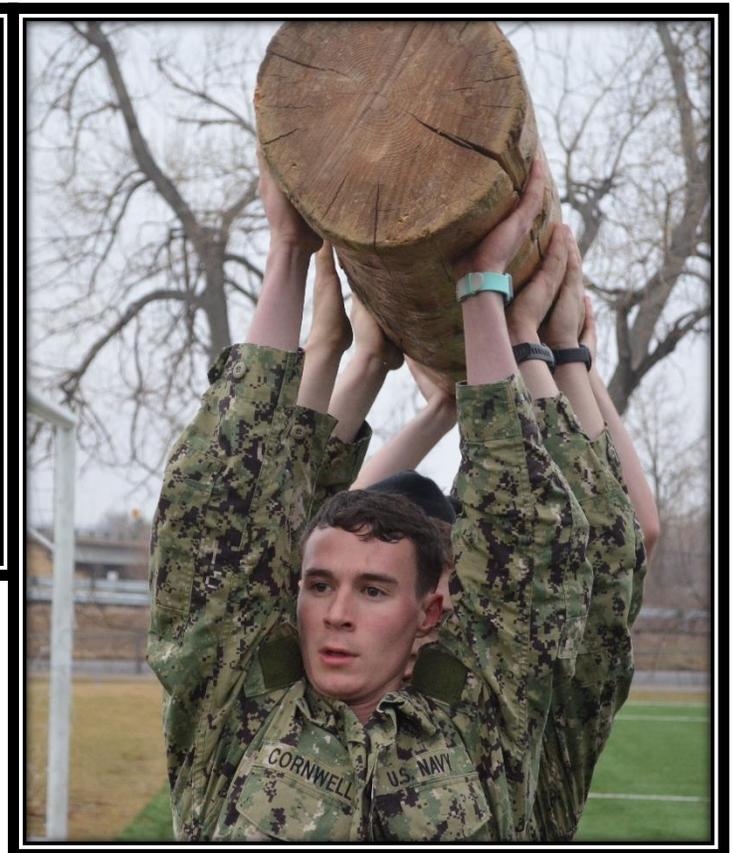
Colorado Meet Finally made its way back after two years! From March 4th through March 5th, The University of Colorado Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (CU NROTC) hosted the annual Colorado Meet. Twelve units from different schools from all around the country came, all inclined to win number 1. This year's competitions included rifle/pistol competition, the endurance race, Knowledge competition, platoon and squad drill and honor guard.

The University of Colorado NROTC unit blew away the endurance race competition this year. CU Placed first with a 30-minute lead on the 2nd place team. This was no easy ordeal; the endurance race ran from the CU campus all the way up to the back side of Chautauqua Park. The team had to fight through snow, rain, and icy conditions on the top of the mountain.

Colorado Meet

The Colorado meet is very hard event to plan, with immense amounts of logistics and communication the event OIC has no easy job. Thankfully MIDN Danos' hard work and dedication to this unit and event made it possible. We also thank event AOIC MIDN Stoltz, MIDN and Officer staff and The University of Colorado for making this event possible.

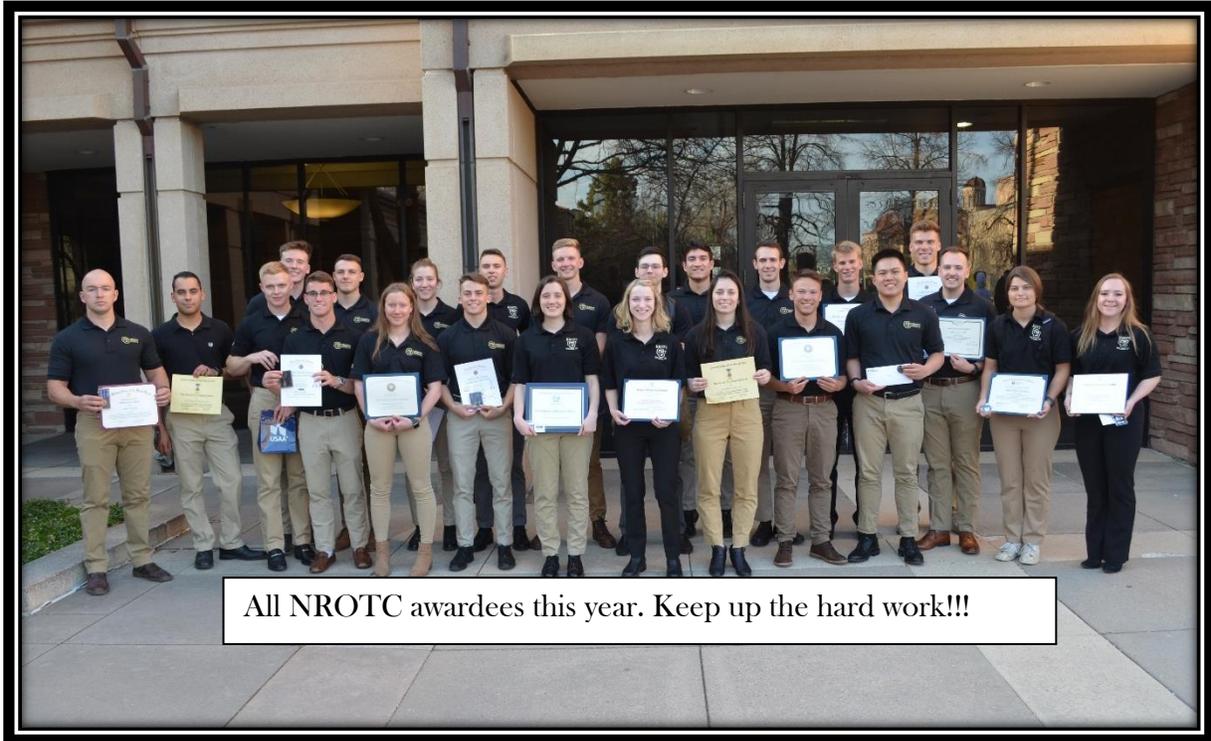
Coming in first place at the Colorado meet was the University of Iowa NROTC unit, with lots of hard work and dedication Iowa was able to score highly in all events and take the first place slot. Thankyou for all teams for coming and competing this year! We hope to see you back and for more teams to join next year!



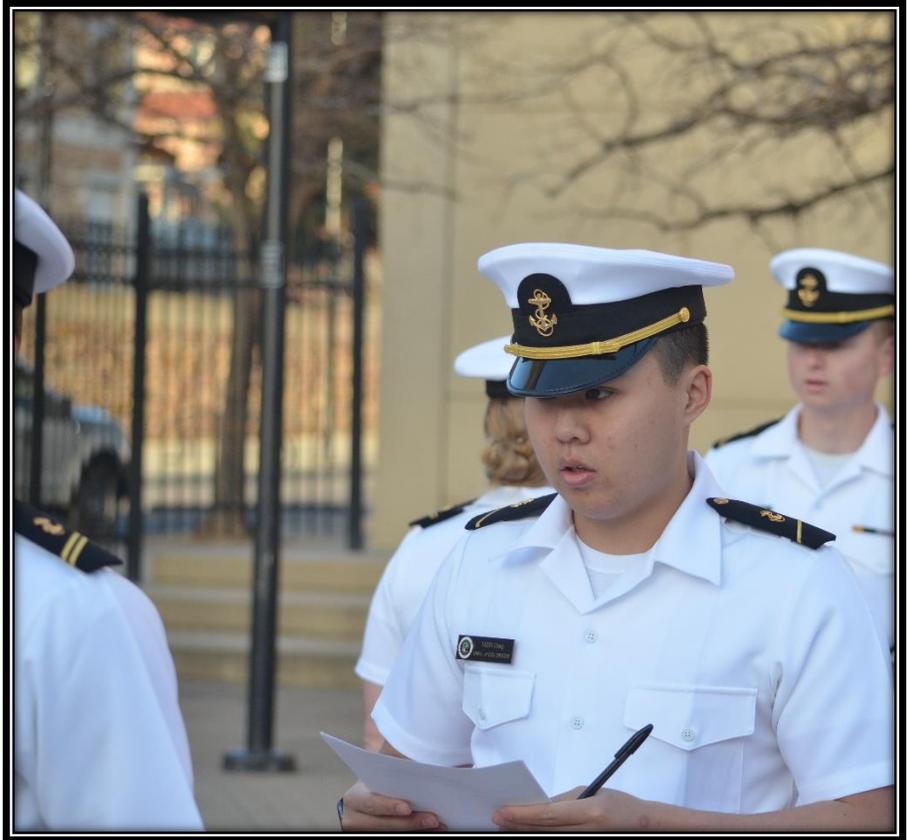
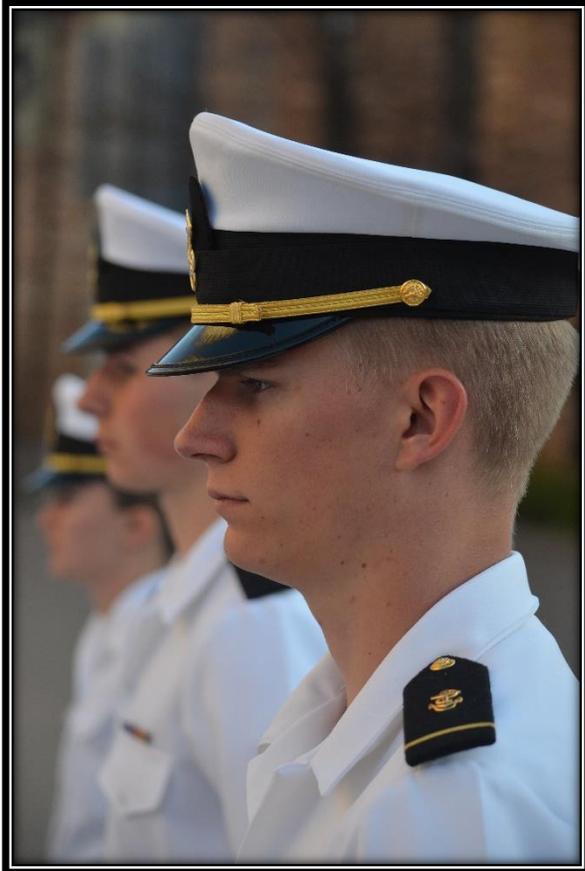
Colorado Meet



Tri Mil Awards Ceremony



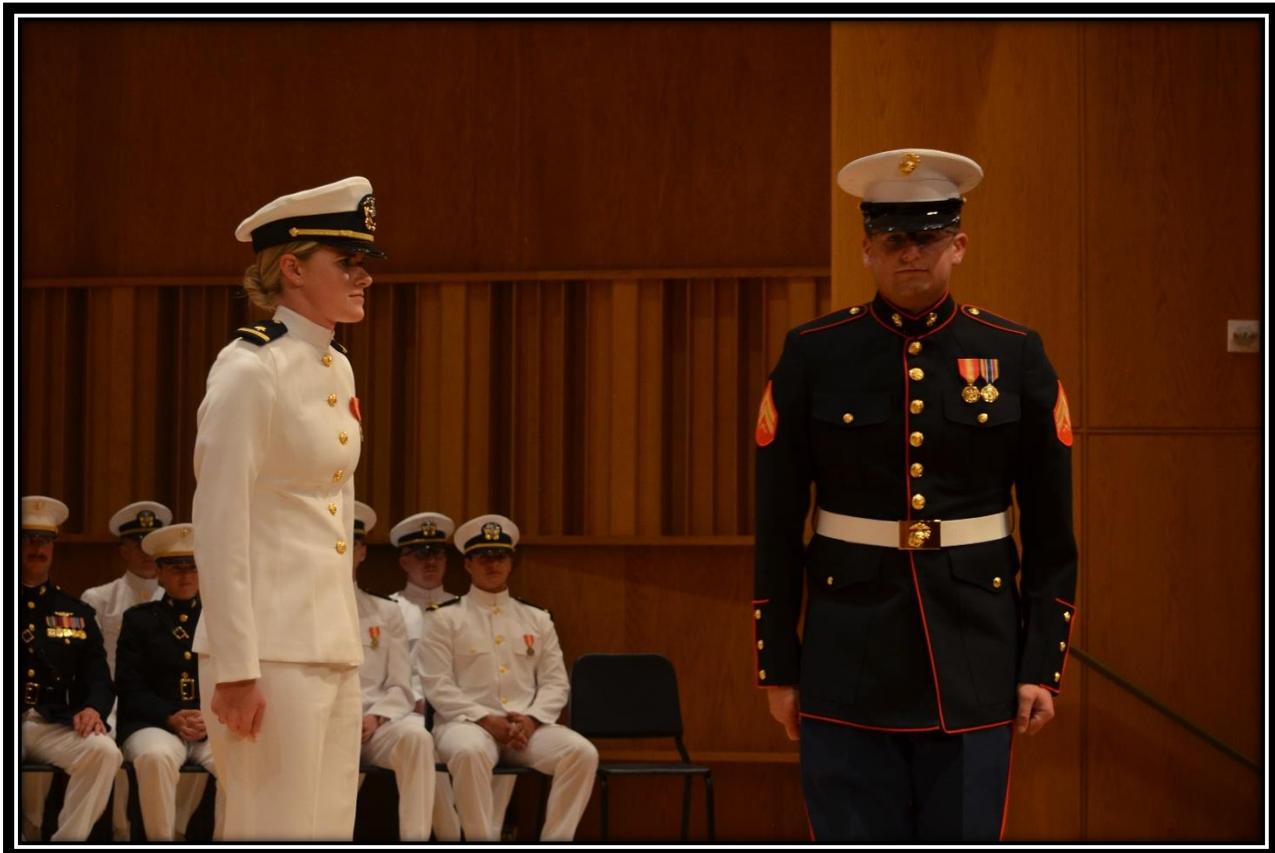
Bravo Company Inspection



Spring Commissioning



Spring Commissioning



BAVO ZULU MIDN!!!

