



NROTCU Rutgers-Princeton

Fall 2017 Newsletter



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Rutgers & Princeton NROTC Military Ball

On November 17th, Rutgers and Princeton NROTC hosted their annual military ball at the Pines Manor, providing an opportunity to commemorate the First Class Midshipmen service assignments and promote a social environment within the NROTC community. The event, as coordinated by MIDN 1/C Marrazzo and supported by MIDN 3/C Kapr, MIDN 1/C Lemyre, MIDN 2/C Malinoski, MIDN 2/C Jung, and MIDN 1/C Towers, started with a cocktail hour, followed by the ceremony with dinner, and concluded with some dancing.

During the main ceremony, the Commanding Officer provided recognition for each First Class Midshipmen's service assignment, to include giving the future aviators a flight suit patch that was designed by ENS Oshel and ENS Beasley, two alumni of the unit. The first Alumni Scholarship Award was awarded to MIDN 3/C James for his accomplishments during the semester. This scholarship was created to award an outstanding College Program Midshipmen in the battalion who is working towards earning an NROTC Scholarship (of note, MIDN 3/C James was selected for a two and a half year Marine Scholarship). Additionally, the crowd had the pleasure of hearing from Navy SEAL, LT Abe Trindle, USN. The guest speaker's speech about leadership inspired the Midshipmen to consider their own form of leadership and better understand what it takes to be an effective and inspirational leader.

Midshipmen benefit from the Military Ball both during the event, and behind the scenes. The effort to coordinate the ball exposes the Midshipmen to a sense of responsibility and gives them another opportunity to work as a team. The success of the Fall 2017 Rutgers and Princeton NROTC Military Ball is a testament to all of the hard work and effort Midshipmen put forth throughout the semester.

-Written by MIDN 1/C William Towers



Princeton 's Salute to Service Football Game



On Veteran's Day, the Princeton University Football team played in their Homecoming football game against Yale University. This game was also the football team's annual Salute to Service game. All three of the ROTC units affiliated with Princeton attended the game to show their presence on campus and show respect for our country and veterans: Navy ROTC, Army ROTC, and Air Force ROTC (AFROTC). Before the game, Princeton Army ROTC put together a tailgate that Rutgers and Princeton NROTC were invited to, giving them the opportunity to socialize with the Cadets present at the game.

Prior to the start of the game, MIDN 3/C Banavige and MIDN 3/C Calimlim served as part of a seven-man joint color guard with Cadets from the Princeton Army ROTC and Rutgers/Princeton AFROTC units. Other Cadets and Midshipmen from the units participated by making a joint formation behind

the color guard and saluting the colors.

After the joint formation at the beginning of the game, the ROTC Cadets and Midshipmen proceeded to watch the game together. This was a perfect time for some inter-service interaction. Though Princeton unfortunately lost to Yale 31-35, it was a memorable day of reflection about service and the unity of the different, but united, ROTC units.

-Written by MIDN 3/C Kara Dowling



Defending Turkey Bowl Champions!

The 2017 Rutgers NROTC Turkey Bowl football team began practicing October 22nd for two flag football games on November 21st and November 22nd. The team first faced the Rutgers Veteran house, winning 19-0 before moving on to win the championship game against Army ROTC 28-0 the next day. The team was comprised of a roster of 30 Midshipmen from both Rutgers and Princeton, and had full formal practices Tuesdays/Thursdays from 0700-0800, and optional Captains practices on Sunday evenings. The team was coached by 2ndLt Hem who was supported by three captains; MIDN 2/C McGowan (Linebackers), MIDN 3/C Buchanan (Linemen), and MIDN 3/C Rohmeyer (Skills). Practices were divided into team offense/defense, posi-

tional drills, and conditioning (suicides). The team achieved its goals of winning the championship while conceding 0 points against both teams, a result of sound disciplined play. This ultimate victory would not have been possible if it were not for a collective effort from each player to study the playbook, memorize their individual role/rules in different scenarios, and applying it to gain comfort and familiarity in practice. By working together and utilizing individual talent in the most effective manner to support the team, Rutgers/Princeton NROTC defended their title this year and are now back to back Turkey Bowl champions.

-Written by MIDN 3/C Maxwell Buchanan



Rutgers Military Appreciation Football Game

On September 16th, the Rutgers University Scarlet Knight football team played against the Morgan State Bears in the 2017 Military Appreciation Game. Rutgers and Princeton NROTC Midshipmen, along with Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets, were featured during the pre-game ceremony for the Scarlet Walk. The Midshipmen and Cadets lined the Scarlet Walk in uniform while the football players were cheered on by the fans as they arrived at the stadium. Midshipmen and Cadets were able to mingle with friends, family, the Scarlet Knight mascot, and even the athletic director, Pat Hobbs, during the pre-game festivities.

After moving to the stadium, the Midshipmen and Cadets were featured before the start of the game, holding a field-sized flag during the playing of the National Anthem. 2ndLt Lam, a Rutgers NROTC graduate and commissioned officer, participated in the coin toss with the Rutgers football team captains. After the first quarter, Submarine Officer and Assistant Professor of Naval Science, LT Forsyth was recognized for his service. The Midshipmen and Cadets were again featured during the halftime show, displaying the field size flag while the band performed. Overall, the Midshipmen and Cadets enjoyed a great day partaking in the game day festivities, as they watched the Rutgers football team win their first game of the season 65-0.

-Written by MIDN 2/C Kurt Malinoski



POW/MIA Run

From 10:30 am the morning of Friday, September 15, until 10:30 am the morning of Saturday, September 16, Rutgers and Princeton NROTC Midshipmen, along with Rutgers Air Force ROTC Cadets and Army ROTC Cadets, participated in a Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Memorial Run (POW/MIA). There were two flags displayed during this run, the American flag and the POW/MIA flag, both carried continuously in a loop around the Werblin practice fields on Busch campus at Rutgers. The purpose of this run was to raise awareness for the men and women of our armed forces who have been prisoners of war, or have been pronounced missing in action, and

whose families have not had the opportunity to be reunited with them. Midshipmen and Cadets alike took 1 hour shifts, running in teams of two, carried both of the flags around the fields continuously for 24 hours. The Midshipmen from the NROTC battalion who participated in this event were: MIDN 3/C Bohen, MIDN 3/C Buchanan, MIDN 2/C Eckhardt, MIDN 1/C Fields, MIDN 2/C Jung, MIDN 1/C Marazzo, MIDN 2/C McGowan, MIDN 1/C Moran, MIDN 3/C O'Shea, MIDN 4/C Peterson, MIDN 3/C Rohmeyer, MIDN 4/C Smith, MIDN 3/C Toth, MIDN 1/C Towers, and MIDN 1/C Westerbeke.

-Written by MIDN 3/C Terence Rohmeyer

Veterans Day Service & Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

On November 10th, the Princeton and Rutgers NROTC Battalion attended the Princeton Veterans Day service and celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday. MIDN 3/C Banavige and MIDN 3/C Calimlim joined the Princeton Army ROTC color guard to present the colors at the beginning of the ceremony. The keynote address was delivered by Jacob Shapiro, a Navy veteran and professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. Dr. Shapiro spoke about the unique nature of military service. He came to the conclusion that what sets military service apart from other service occupations is the watch; service members' willingness to take charge of their post regardless of what may happen in the line of duty. Following the service, the Midshipmen gathered at Chancellor Green Hall to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday; this celebration was highlighted by the birthday cake cutting ceremony. The youngest Marine present was 2ndLt Hem, a Rutgers graduate, and the oldest Marine present was MajGen (Ret.) Davis, a Princeton graduate. Both of these Marines participated in the cutting

of the cake. As always, the cake was delicious! MajGen (Ret.) Davis also took the time to talk with the unit's Marine Option Midshipmen during the birthday celebration.

This marked the first battalion event at Princeton for the fall semester. As our unit continues to grow, it is rewarding to see our presence at Princeton grow as well.

-Written by MIDN 3/C Jeb Banavige



Happy 242nd Birthday to the United States Navy!

On October 13th, 2017, Midshipmen and staff of Rutgers and Princeton Naval ROTC, along with a few United States Navy veterans, gathered to celebrate the 242nd birthday of the United States Navy. The purpose of this celebration was to come together and celebrate the Navy, its culture, our brother and sister sailors, and to be reminded of the Navy's mission and importance over the last 242 years.

The Celebration began with a greeting from the MC, MIDN 1/C Lemyre, followed by the playing of our National Anthem. Succeeding the National Anthem was a touching invocation by MIDN 3/C Rao. Soon after the invocation, MIDN 1/C Lemyre introduced the Commanding Officer (CO), Captain David M. Wright, who spoke about leadership, camaraderie, and the future of the Navy. As part of the ceremony, the First Class (I/C) Midshipmen who recently received their service assignments stepped forward to be recognized. Service assignment determines what community Midshipmen enter after they commission into the Navy. There will be two Surface Warfare Officers, two Submarine Officers, and seven Aviators in this class. After Captain Wright's influential remarks and recognition of the I/C MIDN Service assignments, a video message from the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Richardson, and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Master Chief Giordano, was played. After the video, the bell ringing ceremony was commenced. MIDN 3/C Toth rang the bell eight times, as this is used to signal the end of a watch in the Navy. This was done to represent the end of the birthday year. MIDN 3/C Toth then rang the bell one time. As the Navy uses the single bell to signal the start of a new watch, this represented the start of the United States Navy's 242nd year.



Before cutting the cake, Captain Wright searched for the youngest and oldest sailor in the room to help cut the cake. Traditionally, the cake is cut with a sword to symbolize that the Navy is a band of warriors. The first piece is given to the oldest sailor by the youngest midshipmen to signify the respect and honor earned with seniority. The second piece is given to the youngest Midshipmen by the oldest sailor to symbolize the knowledge and mentorship older sailors have given to younger sailors.

-Written by MIDN 3/C Alexis Stewart

Naval Special Warfare Weekend Forum

After the first week of the Fall 2017 Semester, our unit hosted the first Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Weekend Forum, where Prospective SEAL candidates from NROTC units all over the country came to learn about the SEAL training pipeline, and to gain valuable insight on what it takes to pass the notoriously challenging physical trials of BUD/S training from active duty and retired SEALs.



Over the weekend, the Midshipmen organized themselves into boat crews, as they would if they were a BUD/S class. They participated in many different physical evolutions, including a PST, the

test required on every SEAL candidate's application, a run around Rutgers' Busch Campus, and 3 hours of "1st phase introduction", where the Midshipmen got a little wet and sandy and participated in some log PT and casualty evacuation scenarios.

Besides the physical evolutions, the NSW Weekend gave Midshipmen valuable exposure to the community and advice from SEALs, something that they do not often get during their academic year. They were mentored on an individual and group basis, and were free to ask questions about either the application process, or what life is like in the SEAL teams, and possible career trajectories there. Several Midshipmen had a chance to take on leadership roles during the weekend, either as class Officer in Charge

(OIC), or as boat crew leaders. These roles were extremely beneficial to the Midshipmen in terms of their professional development, as well as lending new understanding of how to lead other highly motivated, top performing individuals. Overall, it was a great experience that greatly benefitted the Midshipmen who attended.

-Written by MIDN 2/C Connor McGowan



Fall 2017 Field Exercise Training (FEX)

The Fall 2017 semester Field Exercise (FEX) was held at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst from 20 October 2017 to 21 October 2017. It challenged Marine-Option and Navy Spec-War (Special Warfare) Option Midshipmen both mentally and physically in order to push Midshipmen past their limits. Midshipmen executed both land and night navigation, a challenging 10-mile hike, Leadership Reactionary Courses (LRC), obstacle courses, and Small Unit Leadership Exercises (SULEs). Embedded in between these events were multiple simulated combat patrols, perhaps the most challenging and time consuming aspect of the entire Field Exercise. Not only do these simulated combat patrols provide opportunity for small unit leadership, but it enables Midshipmen to work together as a team in order to achieve a common goal under unpredictable circumstances. Overall, this training evolution benefitted all Midshipmen who participated as they have all showed signs of improvement in various aspects.



-Written by MIDN 2/C John Van Kleeff

Holy Cross Military Excellence Competition

On September 23, 2017, in Worcester Massachusetts, the Rutgers and Princeton NROTC Midshipmen competed in the Holy Cross Military Excellence Competition (MEC) looking to repeat as the overall MEC champions. The Midshipmen competed in multiple competitive events including: Swim relays, Squad drill, the Warrior Challenge, the Iron Man and Iron Woman challenge, as well as a Basketball tournament. The Midshipmen got off to a rough start during the swim relays, as they unfortunately did not place in any of the swim events. However, they quickly got back on track when the Squad Drill team of MIDN 3/C Bohlen (Squad Leader), MIDN 1/C Lemrye, MIDN 2/C Van Kleeff, MIDN 2/C Eckhardt, MIDN 2/C Malinoski, and MIDN 2/C Jung performed a nearly flawless drill card. Looking to build on the Squad Drill team's performance, MIDN 1/C Fields and MIDN 2/C McGowan started off in the lead during the Warrior Challenge, but ultimately placed third.

The next competition was the Iron Man and Iron Woman challenge. The par-



ticipants were: MIDN 3/C O'Shea, MIDN 3/C Buchanan, MIDN 2/C Jung, MIDN 3/C Kapr, MIDN 1/C Westerbeke, MIDN 3/C Stewart, and MIDN 4/C Smith. The Iron Woman team performed very well and placed first in the competition. However, the Iron Man team came up short of their goal by placing second.

Finally, the unit Basketball team which consisted of MIDN 2/C Van Kleeff, MIDN 2/C Malinoski, MIDN 1/C Moran, MIDN 3/C Dimondo, MIDN 3/C Bohlen, MIDN 2/C Eckhardt, and MIDN 3/C James were able to repeat as champions by defeating Holy Cross in the final game. In the end, the NROTC Rutgers and Princeton Midshipman displayed hard work and dedication during the Holy Cross MEC and in their preparation. As result of their hard work, the Midshipman placed 2nd overall at the 2017 Holy Cross MEC.

-Written by MIDN 3/C Emily Kapr



Cornell Military Excellence Competition (MEC)

This semester, Rutgers and Princeton NROTC competed in two Military Excellence Competitions for the first time in the unit's short history. After competing in the Holy Cross MEC in September, the unit attended the Annual Cornell University NROTC Invitational Drill and Military Excellence Competition in late October. Rutgers and Princeton NROTC traveled to Cornell on Friday and stayed in the fantastic indoor facility where the Cornell ROTC units are located on campus. On Saturday, the MEC began with a great opening ceremony and then the drill and athletic events started. The unit placed second in Squad Drill, third in the 4x100m swim relay, third in the individual 50m swim, fourth in Platoon Drill, and fourth in Trick Drill. Overall, Rutgers NROTC was named the champion of the 2017 Cornell Military Excellence Competition/Athletic Events, and finished second overall in the Drill Competition. It was a tremendous performance for the entire unit and something that can be built on before competing at the Villanova MEC in the spring!

-Written by MIDN 4/C Brady Williams



New Student Orientation NSO

Rutgers and Princeton Naval ROTC started off the Fall Semester by welcoming our new 4/C Midshipmen with New Student Orientation (NSO). New Student Orientation is a program designed to train incoming Midshipman physically and mentally, to acclimate them to a military lifestyle, and train them on important topics that they will encounter during their time at college and in the NROTC program. For NSO, new Midshipmen traveled to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for five days of non-stop training led by Active Duty staff and upper class Midshipmen. For physical training, new Midshipmen ran a PRT/PFT, became familiarized with swimming and swim PT, completed a formation run led by upper class Midshipmen, completed an obstacle course, and a FARTLEK PT. New Midshipmen were taught about life as a college student, how to properly study, and academic requirements that come with being a Midshipman. Midshipmen were also introduced to the military lifestyle, learning how to properly wear their uniforms, learning customs and courtesies, and learning how to execute close order drill. Following the completion of their training, the new Midshipmen were sworn in and welcomed to the NROTC Rutgers Battalion, and returned for a joint field day and barbecue with Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets.

-Written by MIDN 2/C Grant Eckhardt



Awards Ceremony



Each semester, during the first Naval Science Lab the unit has an awards ceremony to recognize accomplishments from the previous semester. This September Midshipmen were recognized for academic or physical excellence in the spring 2017 semester. There were 16 Academic awards and 5 Physical Fitness awards presented. In addition, two midshipmen, MIDN 3/C Rao and MIDN 3/C Kapr, who received a scholarship over the summer took their oath of office. The Rutgers NROTC Staff was also recognized at the awards ceremony. The Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI), GySgt Sullivan, was recognized for his outstanding performance while coordinating and supervising Marine Week at CORTRAMID East over the summer. LT Ash, an Assistant Professor of Naval Science for the past three years, was recognized for his dedication and numerous contributions he made to the unit during his time here. LT Ash advised, mentored, prepared, and trained numer-

ous future and current Naval officers. The awards ceremony is a tremendous opportunity to recognize Midshipmen for their hard work last semester, but the ceremony also serves as motivation for the rest of the battalion. Recognizing that if they work hard they will be awarded and recognized next semester.

-Written by MIDN 2/C Matt Molinari



A Message from the Fall Semester Battalion Commanding Officer (BCO)



Fall semester always seems to hit you in the face. One second you're on the beach cooking yourself to the crisp, golden color of Brower pancakes, and the next second you're fully dressed and showered at 0430 preparing to call "Lights" for prospective Midshipmen at New Student Orientation (NSO) who are still learning to lace their boots and roll their sleeves. Little did we know, these new Midshipmen would bring in new talent from intense Lego rifle skills (yes, you read that correctly and yes, they do fire) to football skills that helped us beat Army (in the game that really matters). Luckily for them, they were quickly given the opportunity to contribute to the NROTC Rutgers/Princeton team by participating in the Holy Cross Military Excellence Competition where we became repeat winners of the Iron Woman Challenge (of course), Squad Drill, and the Basketball Tournament. We accomplished a lot this semester and it showed when we took home 1st place overall in the MEC and 2nd place overall in the drill competitions at the Cornell University MEC. We also organized and participated in several significant events including the Military Ball, the Navy/Marine Corps Birthdays, and the Veteran's Day ceremony at Princeton. Of course, we couldn't have accomplished nearly as much without the Unit Staff who pushes us to improve and the support of families at home. Also, thank you to the Battalion and Midshipmen Staff for your cooperation and work ethic this semester!



-Written by MIDN I/C Rachel L. Westerbeke,
Battalion Commanding Officer



Fall Commissioning Ceremony

On Saturday, January 20th, 2018, Rutgers-Princeton NROTC commissioned two officers into the United States Navy. The commissioning ceremony was held in the historic Kirkpatrick Chapel, on the Rutgers New Brunswick Campus. The ceremony began with the CAPT Wright acknowledging the families and friends, distinguished guests, and alumni of the NROTC unit in attendance. CAPT Wright then continued to discuss the significance of the day and introduce the ceremony's guest speaker, Rear Adm. Mike Bernacchi, Commander, Naval Service Training Command. Rear Adm. Bernacchi discussed the history of service that exists at Rutgers University, and how the two newest Naval Officers would be continuing that tradition of service. After the remarks, Rear Adm. Bernacchi administered the Oath of Office to the two graduating seniors. ENS Doran was commissioned as a Naval Flight Officer, and ENS Verdi was commissioned as a Pilot. Both officers will be stationed at Naval Air Station Pensacola to begin their flight school training. The Rutgers-Princeton NROTC battalion congratulates our two newest officers, thanks them for their numerous contributions to the unit, and wishes them the best in their future endeavors!

-Written by MIDN 2/C Matt Molinari



Midshipmen Abroad!

Project GO (Global Officer) in Tanzania

During the summer of 2017, I was provided with the opportunity to study Swahili in Tanzania via a Project GO scholarship. Project GO provides funding for ROTC cadets and midshipmen to attend university summer language programs across the country for certain "critical languages," languages deemed strategically important for the American military.

After arriving in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania, 20 ROTC Cadets and Midshipmen from across the country, 9 students from James Madison University (the host university for the Swahili East African Field School), and myself, began an intensive 8-week Swahili course meant to achieve basic language proficiency. Through daily lectures, 1-on-1 conversations with our professors, and interactions with locals, we worked diligently to learn the language of our host country. In addition to Swahili, the East African Field School also taught courses in East African political economy, anthropology, and ecology.

We traveled across the country, spending several weeks in the urban center of Dar es Salaam, the tropical island of Zanzibar, and the Serengeti plain, before concluding the program in the remote reaches of the northern Maasai-land. I elected to stay an extra week in Tanzania in order to summit Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak.

Project GO and the East African Field School provided me with the opportunity to explore and immerse myself within many new cultures. As we traveled from location to location within Tanzania, the words of my high school soccer coach, Matt Brenner, rang constantly within my head. "Work outside your comfort zone and good things will happen." For nine weeks, I was constantly uncomfortable, constantly pushed outside of my comfort zone. I believe I will be a better naval officer because of it.

-Written by MIDN 2/C PJ Greenbaum



Studying Abroad in Kazakstan

My experience studying abroad in Kazakhstan was richer and more fulfilling than I ever could have imagined. It taught me how to be more understanding of other cultures and be aware of the differences that I may have with others. From the social cues to the cuisine, there are many differences between my stay in Kazakhstan and life in America. There were many oddities to get used to at first such as how physically close and personal complete strangers would get or eating things such as horse on a regular basis. I was able to adjust fairly quickly to my new surroundings, as I never truly felt uncomfortable in the beautiful city of Almaty, Kazakhstan. Learning one of their two main languages, Russian, and picking up some things in Kazakh more than likely helped such a thing occur. I participated in 21 hours of language courses a week, taking courses that dealt with grammar, reading/speaking, listening, phonetics. I also took a history class on Central Asia that was taught in Russian. The goal of my semester abroad was to make great strides in my language proficiency, but in reality it taught me so much more. I learned to be culturally literate and to never be okay with being culturally ignorant.

-Written by MIDN 1/C Dezzie Ligon



Summer Cruise Experiences

CORTRAMID (Third Class (3/C) Summer Cruise

CORTRAMID East in Norfolk Naval Base was an experience unlike any other that I may ever see again. The most valuable lessons from these experiences stemmed from the intermittent talks with officers and enlisted sailors. Unlike the endless slideshows we receive in training, the active duty members at CORTRAMID provided more realistic perspectives on life in the Navy. For some Midshipmen, these perspectives motivated them, but for others, they brought some worry. These sailors also provided amazing leadership tips that textbooks would have a hard time articulating. This led me to believe that this journey was not only for young Midshipmen to have a life-changing experience, but also for Midshipmen to be able find themselves in their desired or chosen community. At the end of the month, everybody in our company had solid ideas for what they wanted to do in the Navy, which is an impressive feat for college students who can barely decide what their major is. Overall, CORTRAMID East revealed information to me that I would have never received until in the fleet.

-Written by MIDN 3/C
Justin Calimlim



Second Class (2/C) Summer Cruise

Second Class Midshipmen had the opportunity this past summer to embark on different cruises on Navy ships and submarines around the world. While on board, they shadowed multiple enlisted "running mates," learning about the workings of different parts of the ship and hearing about their experience in the Navy. Myself and MIDN 2/C Eckhardt were aboard DDG-79 USS Oscar Austin, while it sailed from Israel to France. We had the opportunity to stand watch with our running mates in the engineering spaces and in the Combat Control Center. We observed gun and small boat exercises, and steered the ship from the bridge. While in port, both of us were also able to experience the cultures of both Israel and France. Overall, wherever the Navy sent Second Class Midshipmen this past summer, they learned many lessons from various running mates, had the valuable experience of going underway, and got a taste of the Surface or Submarine Navy cultures.

-Written by MIDN 2/C
John Whelan



First Class (1/C) Summer Cruise

My 1/C Cruise was spent attached to HM-15, which is an MH-53 squadron based in Norfolk that deploys to Bahrain and is mainly responsible for Mine Counter Measure operations in the Arabian Gulf. After reporting in, I made myself enough of a nuisance to OPS (Navy Flight Operations) that on the third day arriving at my squadron I was shooting a 50 cal. out the side of the MH-53 at a decommissioned patrol boat. I rode front seat on a multitude of missions including MCM sweeping, night ops, gun ops, transport, and a mid-air refueling with a KC-130 (2 hours of turbulence so bad the crew was mandated to bring 2 puke bags each) cumulating in about 25 flight hours. Cruise isn't just for learning the mission sets of your desired community. It's about learning the culture of that community. The aviation community culture is starkly different from NROTC or SWO (Surface Warfare) culture. I was asked not to call any officer in my squadron "sir" aside from the XO (Executive Officer) and the CO (Commanding Officer), going on a flight before playing foosball with your co-pilot was considered bad luck. But the most important part of the culture was an underlying humility and commitment to the mission despite the frequent ego puffing. Not one pilot in my squadron wanted to fly MH-53's in flight school. No matter what aircraft, it's the best job in the Navy

-Written by MIDN 1/C Ian Hay



Marine Corps Officer Candidate School

Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia was a grueling yet amazing experience that I will never forget. It is here at the crossroads of the Marine Corps that every prospective officer goes to be evaluated. Leadership is the most important aspect at OCS, and it was there I learned that one's ability to lead is applicable and visible at any given moment, no matter the situation. However, unbeknownst to some, they are also screening your ability to be taught and persevere. With this ability comes all other things needed to succeed at OCS. One's physical, leadership, and academic ability, the three factors of our final grade at OCS, are obviously viewed as well, but it is also important to see if one has the right characteristics and innate ability to complete the next level of training to be had at The Basic School for six months. Nonetheless, Officer Candidate School's six weeks is no laughing matter.

Everything about OCS was fast and slow at the same time. The three year build up to OCS seemed so slow, but at the same time reared itself quicker than I imagined. The days were long, but the weeks were short. Time always seemed to be at a standstill, but before I knew it I'd already be waking up for the next day. Six weeks may appear to be long at first, but the training schedule was so dense that everything happened before you could notice. You either failed or passed before you knew it. Your body was exhausted and mind fatigued before you even realized. It was in this environment, that I pushed myself further physically and mentally than I ever had before, and I learned many priceless lessons in the process. At OCS I honed my leadership skills and learned how to break through mental and physical barriers. The physical events at OCS, specifically the Small Unit Leadership Exercise (SULEs) and the Endurance Course, were much more than just indicators of



one's physical prowess. It was a test of one's ability to do something they would not normally be able to execute. Both of these two events are very long and difficult, so much so I failed the Endurance Course on the first attempt. However, that was a lesson that I'll never forget. Three days after that I passed the Course but was diagnosed with a 107 degree heat stroke directly afterwards. When it comes down to it, I shouldn't have been able to drop my time to pass by as much as I did or be able to complete the course while overheating to the dangerous level that I did. Nonetheless, I somehow managed to, because I was able to break through mental and physical barriers I had unconsciously put up. It was at OCS that I truly tested my limits and became a better person and leader for it. I learned that the mind is the only thing that truly holds us back from succeeding.

-Written by MIDN I/C Dezzie Ligon

Presenting the Colors at a Rutgers Men's Basketball Game



Annual Fall Executive Officer Uniform and Knowledge Inspection

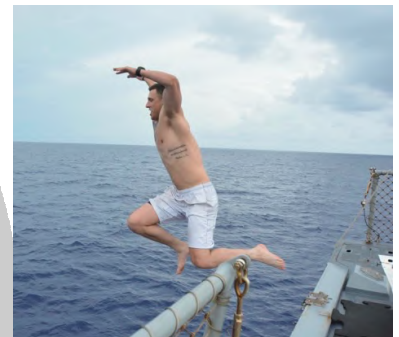




Updates from the Fleet



- ENS James Oshel, commissioned in January 2017 from Rutgers University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Since his departure from NROTC Rutgers, ENS Oshel has resided in Pensacola, Florida where he continues his training as a Student Naval Aviator. ENS Oshel is now stationed in Training Squadron Two at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, where he continues towards completion of Primary Flight Training flying the T-6B Texan II aircraft. Once complete, he will select where he will continue his training pipeline in either the Jet, Maritime, Rotary, or E-6 communities.
- ENS Matthew Moeller, commissioned in May 2017 from Rutgers University. After commissioning and completing follow on training in Norfolk, VA, ENS Matthew Moeller joined the crew of his first ship, USS PORTER (DDG 78). ENS Moeller met his ship with 3 months remaining on their Forward Deployed Patrol. He had the opportunity to make port visits in many different countries to include Palma de Mallorca, Spain; Bar, Montenegro; Souda Bay, Greece; Toulon, France; and Larnaca, Cyprus. Along the way he earned many qualifications towards his ultimate goal of a Surface Warfare Officer pin. ENS Moeller was able to participate in PORTER's first ever swim call in the Mediterranean Sea, multiple multinational exercises with foreign Navies, and many other exercises key to the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. At the beginning of December, USS PORTER and Ensign Moeller returned to where they now both call home in Rota, Spain.
- ENS Brian Foley, commissioned in May of 2016 from Rutgers University. ENS Foley has recently re-designated as an Information Professional Officer under the Information Warfare Community. He is currently attending the Information Professional Basic Course (IPBC) located in Virginia Beach, VA. His follow-on orders are to U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS) Bahrain. Before re-designating, Ensign Foley successfully completed a 3 month Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) at SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic. During his TAD, he delivered 35 man-hours of training on Cyber Baseline Green programs and requirements for the Navy's new Consolidated Afloat Network and Enterprise Services (CANES) to On Site Installation Coordinators (OSICs) and Test Directors.
- ENS Bret Hinrichs, commissioned in June 2017 from Princeton University. ENS Hinrichs is currently stationed in Norfolk, VA onboard USS Bainbridge (DDG 96). He serves in the Engineering Department as the ship's Main Propulsion Officer and will be attending VBSS (Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure) and SAR (Search and Rescue Swimmer) Schools. ENS Hinrichs will graduate Basic Division Officer Course on 30 January 2018, and is looking forward to getting back to work at sea.
- 2ndLT Connor Lam commissioned in May 2017 from Rutgers University. 2ndLT Lam is currently attending The Basic School (TBS) at Marine Corps Base Quantico. The Basic School teaches newly commissioned Marine Corps Officers the fundamentals of officership, endurance, and most importantly, the basics of being a rifle platoon commander. He has been learning infantry tactics including squad level operations, platoon tactics, patrolling operations, maneuver warfare, and the tactical orders process. The lieutenants of The Basic School are given the ability to apply what they learn through numerous field exercises consisting of different tactical billets and unique leadership opportunities. 2nd Lieutenant Lam will graduate The Basic School in April of 2018 and head down to Pensacola to begin flight school.





DONATION INFORMATION!



Throughout the semester, Midshipmen volunteer their time to help fundraise money for the NROTC Unit. Some of the fundraising events have included: working security

at Rutgers Football games, helping Rutgers Athletics at Women's Volleyball Games, and Shoprite Bagging events. As the unit continues to grow and attend more Military Excellence Competitions, and various educational conferences, it is important that our fundraising efforts continue to increase as well. If you are currently able to donate to the Rutgers-Princeton NROTC Unit, any donation would be greatly appreciated and go a long way in helping the Midshipmen organize future Military Balls, Mess Nights, our participation in Military Excellence Competitions, and numerous other functions. Donation checks should be written out to "Rutgers, The State University", and "Scarlet Anchor Society Donation 1424" should be written on the Memo/Comment/For line of the check. If "Scarlet Anchor Society Donation 1424" is not written on the Memo/Comment/For line of the check, then the check will not be able to be deposited. The Check should be written out similar to the example below:

All checks can be mailed to:

NROTCU Rutgers/Princeton
College Avenue Campus
12 Lafayette Street, Bldg. 3171
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

		1025
		DATE XX/XX/2018
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	Rutgers, The State University	\$ 50.00
Fifty dollars and zero cents		DOLLARS
MEMO Scarlet Anchor Society		
Donation 1424		
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We would like to thank you for your continued support of the Rutgers-Princeton NROTC Unit!