Greetings from Foggy Bottom,

Spring is in the air…..finally! After a particularly brutal winter here in our nation’s capital, mild weather is upon us and the cherry blossoms are blooming.

We find ourselves in the middle of a very busy spring semester. Spring break is behind and now our sights are focused on final exams, summer training and commissioning. It is time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to plan for the future. Our 4th class midshipmen have a big decision to make this fall and our soon to be Ensigns and Second Lieutenants are making final preparations to start their careers.

This past semester we commissioned two MECEPs and one MIDN into the Marine Corps and we will commission six Marine Corps Officers and twenty-one Navy Officers on May 15th at the Jefferson Memorial. I want you to know how proud I am of each of you and that I have all the confidence in the world that you will be highly successful in all your endeavors. Your positive attitudes, friendly demeanor and sharp focus that I have witnessed over the past two years will continue to carry you well. Life in the Fleet can be challenging, but I know you are well-prepared to tackle any obstacle with which you might face. You are all strong, confident and
skilled leaders and I know that the Sailors and Marines placed under your charge are in good hands.

Ship selection went particularly well this semester with all prospective Surface Warfare Officers getting their top choices. These stellar midshipmen will soon be manning Cruisers, Destroyers and Amphibious ships in Norfolk, San Diego, Mayport, Yokosuka and Rota. Rear Admiral Sinclair Harris, Vice Director of Operations for the Joint Staff, joined our midshipmen to congratulate them on their selections.

Over the summer and into the next semester we will be saying farewell to several outstanding staff members. CDR Stew Wennersten will be heading up to UMBC to start up a new NROTC program which will be a consortium with UMD College Park starting in the fall of 2016. LT Johnson will be separating from the Navy. In addition, we will see the departure of Capt Batista, LT Beasley and GySgt Gilliland as they are in receipt of their PCS orders. All of these officers have made numerous vital contributions to the success of our program. Although we hate to lose these great Americans, they are heading off to positions of greater responsibility. We owe you all a heartfelt thanks and wish you fair winds and following seas. They will be replaced by CDR Ross Piper, LT Brendon Cordial, LT Arnest Landon, Capt Sarah Culbertson and MSgt Houston. Welcome Aboard!

This summer will be my last here at The George Washington University NROTC unit as I will be retiring in June and heading back to San Diego, CA. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as the Commanding Officer of one of the elite programs in the United States. I have enjoyed every minute of my time here and can retire confident that we are developing outstanding young leaders who will serve our great nation with distinction.

To the families, friends, mentors and other Midshipmen....Thank You! Without your support, our newly commissioned Ensigns and Second Lieutenants would not be here. For the Battalion of Midshipmen, you have worked tirelessly to succeed academically, build on your physical fitness and hone your leadership skills. As you embark on summer cruise, take the lessons you have learned from this past year and apply them in the Fleet. This is your future profession, take an active role in your training. Listen and observe, ask questions and take full advantage of every opportunity you are presented. Enjoy your summer and have fun, but more importantly be safe! Thank you all for your time and endless support to the Midshipmen and the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

With Warm Regards,

CAPT Andy Cully
GWU NROTC Commanding Officer
Our mission at the GWUNROTC Battalion is to develop the next generation of leaders in the United States’ Naval Service. To this end, our NROTC Unit offers its members an environment to grow and improve intellectually, physically, and morally. Midshipmen find themselves surrounded by likeminded brothers and sisters who support and push each other to new heights every day. Together we overcome the daily challenges ROTC presents us through selfless teamwork, individual determination, and the guidance of confident leadership.

For the spring semester, I have been honored with the responsibility of Battalion Commanding Officer (BCO) for the GWUNROTC Battalion. My mission, for the short time I have as BCO, is to instill in each Battalion members three important traits. First, I want each midshipman to feel a sense of pride and ownership for the Unit. Second, I wish to instill a single-minded purpose for each midshipman to pursue becoming the best possible officer one could become. Third, I want each Battalion member to build confidence in his or her ability to lead others. With these three goals in mind, I present to you my command philosophy for this semester: Growth Through Challenge.

Challenge exists everywhere; we must not only embrace the natural challenges in our lives, but also seek out challenges in areas where we wish to grow. As aspiring officers, our context and criteria is clear.

As individuals, we must seek to become whole in mind, body, and spirit. This requires both reflection and self-assessment. Once we know where we fall short, we can set goals for ourselves. This ranges from the PT field to the classroom and from moral judgment to professional knowledge.

As followers, we must seek to build our team and proactively contribute to mission accomplishment. Being a part of a team allows understanding of the perspective of being led by others. A team teaches humility and selflessness. Practicing good “followership” is critical to learning how to be a quality leader.

Finally, those with leadership billets will be expected to push their skills to new limits. By taking initiative and focusing on the growth of their subordinates, our leaders will, by design, foster growth in their own leadership skills. Leadership is an art that requires practice to finesse. You will likely make mistakes, but it is better to learn those lessons here than in the fleet.
### SERVICE SELECTION 2015

#### SURFACE WARFARE: Ship Selection

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDN Peter Frost</td>
<td>USS Gonzalez DDG 66</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>MIDN Christian Kurowski</td>
<td>USS Monterey (CG-61)</td>
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<td>MIDN Jeremy Morell</td>
<td>USS Essex LHD 2</td>
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<td>MIDN Nichella Nal</td>
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<td>MIDN Erin Hunzeker</td>
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<td>MIDN Nicholas Tsusaki</td>
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<td>MIDN Christine Colon</td>
<td>USS Ross DDG 71</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDN John Raymond</td>
<td>USS Boxer LHD-4</td>
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### Aviator

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<tr>
<td>MIDN Eric Nelson</td>
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<td>MIDN Melissa Ogden</td>
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### Flight Officer

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<tr>
<td>MIDN Barbara Dash</td>
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<td>MIDN Michael Belcher</td>
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<td>MIDN Leigh Freitag</td>
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### Submarines

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<td>MIDN Joseph Piccinini</td>
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### Marines

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<td>MIDN Nicholas Asarese</td>
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<td>MIDN Scott Cope</td>
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<td>MIDN Casey LaMar</td>
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<td>MIDN John Pennell</td>
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<td>MIDN Justin Thieke</td>
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### Navy Nurse

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<td>MIDN Claire James</td>
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<td>MIDN Monica Peters</td>
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Acts of Service

St. Baldrick’s Event

By: MIDN 3/C Durkin

On March 28th, approximately 20 midshipmen volunteered to spend their Saturday morning at the St Baldrick’s Foundation’s “Salute to Our Littlest Heroes” fundraiser at Flanagans Harp and Fiddle in Bethesda, Maryland. The annual fundraiser is held in honor of the cancer stricken children of service men and women stationed in the Washington D.C. metro area, and was successful in raising over $50,000 dollars for cutting edge cancer research. The Midshipmen volunteers entertained the “littlest heroes” with face painting, and arts and crafts, in addition to greeting attendants at the door and registering volunteers. A few midshipmen went the extra mile and volunteered to shave their heads to show their solidarity with the young warriors that have embarked on a courageous battle against cancer. It was inspiring and uplifting see so many young and optimistic children that were determined to not allow their grim diagnoses to dictate their lives and attitudes! Their fighting spirits and positive outlooks are something that we, as future Naval and Marine Corps officers should look to permeate in our careers and everyday lives.

http://www.stbaldricks.org/

Why we have Club Credits?

By: MIDN 4/C Cirilo

Club Credits are a part of the professional development training for midshipmen and they are broken up into two categories. A-Club Credits are earned by attending events that contribute to a midshipman’s personal growth and B-Club Credits are earned by community service. Each semester we are expected to earn a certain number of both A and B Club Credits. The Battalion Training Officer, club presidents, and interested battalion members often send out emails regarding events to attend every week for club credit. Events include amazing opportunities, such as when I was able to see Elie Wiesel and Senator Ted Cruz discuss the implications of a nuclear Iran. These important experiences have contributed to my development as a midshipman. Without the Unit’s emphasis on club credits, I may not have heard about, let alone attended, such events.

In attempts to fulfill club credit requirements, I have taken part in a numerous amount of events. My participation has included: community service days; proctoring a JROTC field meet; attending a drill competition at Carnegie Melon; traveling to the Naval Museum at the Washington Naval Yard; hearing world renown scientists discuss bioethics; watching movies that showcase naval operations and the Navy’s role in American history; listening to ambassadors and liaisons speak about international affairs; and volunteering at the D.C. Soup Kitchen. As a midshipman, I am taught that a good leader is constantly seeking ways to better oneself, expand his or her hori-
zons, and help others. Club Credits have helped me realize those goals. When I went to the Navy Museum with the SWO Club, I learned about the proud and extensive legacy of the United States Navy that I aim to uphold. When I attended a panel discussion between former ambassadors about the future of the Middle East, I learned about the widespread challenges and nuances of military operations in that region. Each event has left me a better, more informed midshipman.

As a 4/C freshman, there were many times this year when I was caught up in my own responsibilities and felt overwhelmed. Throughout the year, the need for B-Club Credits pushed me to set aside my homework and worries to volunteer. My experiences at assisted living facilities and the soup kitchen helped me reflect on what service means and how I can bring that with me into the Fleet one day. Service means helping others, even when it’s inconvenient to you. It means working toward a better community and world. In these ways, Club Credits have been a useful and necessary part of my development. They have been a constant way to engage my community and become a better leader.

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**Foreign Affair Events:**

**Perspective of an Engineering Student**

By: MIDN 3/C Thornton

As a student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, I do not always get as much exposure to foreign affairs as I would prefer. Few of my classes are outside of the engineering department and with the intensity of the program, I do not have the desirable amount of time to keep fully abreast with world news. When tasked with coming up with some A-Club credits this semester, I took a look at some of the foreign affairs events. It seemed simple enough; all I had to do was show up to hear someone talk about something going on in the world.

The first time I attended a talk at the Elliott School of International Affairs was a year ago. I was doing it solely for the A-Club credit I was promised for attending. I did not even know what the talk was going to be about or
who would be speaking. Once I got there, I realized that I would be listening to the Jordanian Ambassador to America discuss the relationship between these two countries. I was shocked that someone so important would come talk to a group of students. It was then that I decided I should take advantage of the location of my school and the opportunities it presents.

Now whenever I am in need of A-Club credits I use it as an excuse to attend events at the Elliott School. I have now been able to see speakers from all over the world discuss timely matters to a room full of students. Each event lasts about an hour with a question and answer period following the presentation. The events vary from speeches to debates. The speakers are always very professional and the students always follow suit.

One week this semester, I attended a talk about Taiwan and China relations given by a professor from Cornell University. At the time, all I knew about Taiwan was that it was in Asia. After Professor Chen’s talk, I learned how important Taiwan is to the United States because of their deep ties with China. Two days later, I attended a talk about the biggest trade agreement in ages and how it relates to Taiwan. Now I do not claim to be an expert on Taiwan, but at least I have a working knowledge of how important they are when it comes to United States interests. This is just one example of how attending these events have widened my global view.

I would highly recommend attending foreign policy events at the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University. It is an easy and entertaining way to earn A-Club credits, but it is also a valuable tool to expand your personal knowledge and interests. Speakers from around the world are invited to speak to students about a wide array of subjects. These events have sparked my interest in an otherwise mathematically occupied mind.
Shadowing is a vital part of the application process to Medical Schools and is meant to give the student intimate access to the practice of medicine before beginning the long journey towards becoming a physician. With a bevy of choices to select from in the area, including George Washington University Hospital, Howard University Hospital, and Children’s National Medical Center among others, I was able to procure a shadowing position at Walter-Reed National Military Medical Center. I decided that given the specific nature of military medicine, it would be more beneficial to shadow at a military hospital.

My experience at Walter-Reed has been very similar to that of Midshipman Summer Cruises. I observe the interactions between the officers (including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, clinical managers) and the enlisted (including corpsmen and yeomen) in their work environment, which in this case is a medical facility. Becoming familiar with the duties of both and the different leadership styles among the physicians has been a boon to my own leadership development.

The true value of shadowing has been watching the physician-patient interactions. As a hopeful medical officer, I am supremely interested in the specifics of handling military and dependent patients. To properly treat the patient you have to consider factors such as their dates of retirement, scheduled deployment, and the distinctive stresses that military life presents. Each Tuesday has been spent in the Orthopedic Spine Clinic. Being able to investigate MRI’s, CAT scans, and physical examinations while following the physician’s diagnosis and recommendation has been a truly eye opening experience. Individuals struggling with degenerative disk disease, pinched nerves, and bulging disks are common in the clinic. It has shown me how unique each case has been, and how much care and empathy needs to go into every patient’s care. Walter-Reed’s professional and thoughtful staff has fueled my passion to pursue medicine in the Navy and be the best Naval Officer I can be.
An event that proved enlightening this semester was the first of MIDN Graves’ Spec War challenges. The workout itself was strenuous, but the biggest test for me was coping with the 10°F weather and strong wind-chill.

The workout took place at The Exorcist Stairs in Georgetown. We were grouped into two teams with five midshipmen each. Each team was responsible for a full water jug, an ammo can, and a sea-bag filled with wet sand (by far the heaviest object). The first challenge was to get the whole team up and down the stairs with all the gear. Whichever team lost had to execute an amount of burpees equivalent to the amount of seconds by which they lost. Our team won by nearly a minute, but what we did not know was that this process would be repeated, and whoever improved their time the most would win the next round. This turned into several rounds of my team performing extra workouts because our time was too fast initially to significantly improve. Fast-forward to two hours later, the final challenge was getting each team and their respective gear home. The only rule was that nothing could touch the ground. My team struggled back to Foggy Bottom with one person on the ammo can, one person on the water jug, and three people with the sandbag. My team won by mere seconds, and by 0030, both teams were home. I spent the next hour thawing out before changing because the water jug had spilled down my back and frozen my clothes onto me without me noticing.

Despite being freezing and covered in snot, everyone had an incredibly positive attitude throughout the event. I learned first hand about the importance of pulling your weight in a situation that calls for everyone’s best efforts. Staff Sergeant Hyma’s tenant of growth through adversity became a reality for all of us that night. While I am not itching to do something like this again, I have a much greater appreciation for the people who pursue careers that require such intense mental fortitude as well as team-working abilities. Everyone on my team had boundaries or breaking points, but we worked through them with motivation and humor. This was one of the most rewarding events I participated in this semester, and I would encourage everyone to go outside of their comfort zone and try a spec war challenge in the future.
Dining In or Mess Night holds a firm place in the history of the Navy and Marine Corps. Originally stemming from the Viking tradition of celebrating great battles and victories of heroes, the Navy and Marine Corps dining in is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the unit. In the case of the George Washington University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit, it is a time to review the past two semesters and commemorate the last big event before sending the senior class off into the fleet.

To the unknowing outsider Dining In seems like a rigid and strictly formal event due to the long list of “mess rules” provided by Mr. President and Mr. or Madam Vice who control the mess. Some of these rules include: “Thou shall not wear a clip on tie,” “Thou shall not pick thy nose, ears or buttocks,” “Elbows shall remain off the table,” and “Thou shall not use foul language,” just to name four of the 41. Once inside the hall however, it is clear that Dining In is intended to be an evening of merriment. After the parading of the beef, where a 4/C struts through the rows of tables and makes his or her way to the head table where Mr. President deems that beef fit for consumption, the time for fining may begin. A fine is when midshipmen may call out another midshipman for some “egregious” offense committed throughout the year. A fine is when midshipmen may call out another midshipman for some “egregious” offense committed throughout the year. A punishment or tribute may be administered for such an offense should Mr. President see fit or a midshipman may be sent to the grog! The grog is a liquid mix of anything and everything that is able to be poured into a cup; and for guests of age there is an alcoholic grog. To submit a fine, permission must be requested with the phrase: “Mr./Madam Vice! (Rank/Name) requests permission to address the mess and walk about freely,” wherein Mr./Madam Vice can accept or deny the request. This year, thumb wars of honor were fought, mustaches were taunted, cartwheels were executed and many, many (many), sips from the grog were taken.

While the night is filled with laughing, shouting, and jesting, it is also a night to remember those who have gone before us and paid the ultimate price for our freedom and liberty. Toasts are made to the President of the United States; the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Chief of Naval Operations; to the Marines and the sailors of all major wars, conflicts and battles in our history; and to those currently deployed. A table is set for the missing, fallen comrade. This table is set for one, with an empty chair to symbolize the isolation of a prisoner of war and the fact they are not with us at the ceremony. The tablecloth is white for the purity of their noble intentions to defend our country. A single red rose signifies the blood that was shed and a yellow ribbon is to be tied around the vase; the yellow ribbons worn of those who wait for the return of their missing loved ones. A lemon slice represents the bitter fate of the missing, salt sprinkled across the plate symbolizes the salty tears shed. Our comrade’s glass is inverted and a candle is light in memory of the small light of hope that lives in our hearts to illuminate his way home. Dining In is a time to remember and pay homage to those who have fallen and rejoice in their memory.

As a 2/C this year was one of the best Dining Ins’ I have been to at this unit and look forward to next year!
My last night, before coming to GWU on August 13th, 2011, was spent in the company of friends I had known my whole life at my community pool where I had made memories as long as I can remember. I had one new friend in attendance, a guy from Colorado and met once at GW Orientation, who was destined to be my roommate. He had flown in to take the short drive, from my hometown outside Baltimore, down to DC for NROTC Orientation the next morning at 0800. He got quite the introduction to my family and friends in his 36 hours at my house, but little did we know how the next 8 days would introduce us to 46 other classmates and about 20 staff members that we will never forget.

The yelling began as soon as our parents left and did not let up for four days. We slept, but not well, and spent most of our alone time attempting to wrap our heads around the events on the day before, and preparing for the next morning’s requirements. The average day was 0400 physical training, shower and breakfast by 0700, basic marching on the hot drill deck, and classroom training in the afternoon. We had a hot meal for breakfast but training sized Meals Ready to Eat (MRE’s) for lunch and dinner. We learned a lot very quickly, and if we didn’t do it right the first time, we definitely did it again. As the initial shock wore off, we began to get to know our fellow Candidates and revere our Instructors and Staff. They were the face of the Military to our impressionable minds, and they played the part well.

Once we were back on campus, the tone set at our Orientation carried our 4/C MIDN through our first year, and a significant portion of us did very well. We had all been so impressed with our leaders we want to be the best leaders we could be. Although there were some that decided the program was not for them, the Class of 2015 began strong with a highly motivated group. My first platoon, Alpha 3 was a great family, and in it I made lifelong friends. My first Squad Leader and Platoon Guide became life mentors, and my fellow 4/C became best friends. In second semester, I became a Squad Leader and Sailing Assistant, and spent my spring Saturdays on the water teaching people of all years how to sail. Being a 4/C MIDN, you have little responsibility, but I quickly learned that taking the little that is expected of you, and doing it well, shows your dedication and commitment.

Sophomore year brought a slight sophomore slump. As a 3/C MIDN you are the forgotten middle child, but you also now have a direct leadership role over the 4/C MIDN. From being Assistant Safety Officer at Orientation, a member of Reveille, and Platoon Guide, I got a great introduction into leadership at a peer level. I learned that when you only have marginally more experience, you have to do your best to
pass on wisdom, but not pretend you know everything. You are there to show the freshman the ropes and let them know if they screwed up before they get the hammer from the upper classmen. The relationships I built with this class of MIDN will continue to influence my life for years to come.

I took a semester to Study Abroad in Paris, France the spring of my sophomore year and could not be more thankful. The experience of living in a foreign country, learning another language, and living a life style completely separate from any and all obligations of GWU is freeing, and taught me a ton about myself. I learned how to be alone, how to be free from time constraints, and how to enjoy the moment. It is often lost on the rigidly scheduled MIDN, just how important it is to enjoy your time and to budget free time to decompress into your everyday life.

Junior year, with the responsibilities of 2/C MIDN and a tough load of Systems Engineering, forced me to really put in my full effort to be successful and get the job done. As Assistant Operation’s Officer first semester, I learned the ins and outs of Battalion Staff, how decisions are made, how they are changed, and what is on the minds of the Battalion Leaders. Being a staff officer is challenging, and being an assistant to a staff officer can be even more difficult, but the takeaway was clear from the first week on the job. Do what is expected of you and more, and learn all that you can, no matter the reward or the “Thank you’s.” Moving on to Battalion Activities Fund Officer, the treasurer of our Unit, there were less thanks and more responsibility. I knew that it was my responsibility to not only do my job, but also establish organized, clear, and consistent rules for the next MIDN to take over. The state of our fund, and its paper work were far behind in compliance due to a few years of neglect. My immediate predecessor had done a significant amount to improve it, but I needed to finish the job. Putting in the time to do things right and complete, while seeing little reward, was the lesson of this year.

Finally, I reached my final year and the untouchable status of 1/C MIDN. Being referred to as “Sir” made me cringe each time, and I had no desire to change my relationship with the underclassmen. Although I respected the responsibilities of becoming Alpha 1 Platoon Commander, I had no desire to lift my nose and be treated like a commissioned officer. I went for a personal leadership style, where each of my subordinates felt as comfortable speaking to me as they anyone else. I used my squad leaders and platoon sergeant for the formalities of passing word, but I was there as a resource and a motivator for all 21 MIDN. Becoming a Platoon Commander taught me the importance of being a leader at all times, and being fully conscious of your words and actions at all time. As our own CAPT Cully always says “You are always right, even when you are wrong.”

The final chapter I have spent at GWU is serving as Battalion Executive Officer this semester. I have had the privilege of working with every member of the Battalion in some
way to ensure the proper personnel functions are maintained and to guide the chain of command as to the orders of the Battalion Commanding Officer. I have had the challenge of ensuring good order and discipline is maintained and it is fair across the Unit. It has been eye opening and extremely informative to work so closely with the Unit Staff and be the last buffer for all of the MIDN. This cap stone experience was required the dedication of 4/C year, the peer leadership from 3/C year, and the diligence learned in 2/C year to be successful.

My next task is to qualify as a Surface Warfare Officer on the USS Ross. I cannot wait for this new challenge and I look forward to learning from my Sailors about what it takes to be a successful Division Officer. I feel prepared and confident, but when the times get tough, I know each of the final twenty-six members of the Class of 2015 will be there for each other just like we were that third week of August 2011. Even better, three of those classmates will be with me to experience Rota, Spain for the next two years.
**SUPPORT OUR MIDS AND DONATE!!**

MIDN are involved in programs that help offset costs of various unit activates. One such activity that brings in substantial amount of money is assisting with stadium seating at UMD. Sadly, our UMD NROTC brethren are venturing on their own and standing up a new NROTC unit in Fall of 2016. Therefore, we are pursuing other opportunities to earn money to support our MIDN. The associate provost for military and veterans affairs has developed a way for alumni to provide tax deductible donations to the unit! The midshipmen would greatly benefit from any support you might be able to provide. If you would like to donate now, or sometime in the future, please see the options listed below.

**Ways to Donate:**
1. Make a check out to “NROTC Fund” and mail it the unit.
2. Give online by visiting http://tinyurl.com/ocgq8u. Select “Other” under “Purpose of Gift” and enter “Naval ROTC Unit “

**Send Checks To:**
GWU NROTC
Attn: NROTC Fund
2035 F ST NW
Washington DC, 20052

**“Like” our Facebook Page at:**
https://www.facebook.com/GWUNROTC

**Follow us on Twitter @GWNROTC**
The GWU NROTC Unit encourages Alumni to stay in touch, and connected to the unit by joining the GWUNROTC

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**SHIP STORE**

- Unit Mugs (navy or scarlet) - $10
- Unit Polos (USMC or Navy) - $25
- Unit Challenge Coins - $5
- Grey Unit T-shirt - $5
- Fleece Pullover, Athletic Shorts and more!

To order, or for more information, please email:
gerardcallan@gwu.edu

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**Editor:** MIDN 2/C Charalambous.
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