This Issue:

(2) Service Selection Results
(3) Nuke Community Options
(3) Speakers at the Capitol Battalion
(4) Zumwalt Commissioning
(5) Mountain Warfare Training
(6) Professional Development
(6) Reveille

Editor: MIDN 3/C Bucholz
PAO: MIDN 3/C Lee
Congratulations to the 1/C of the GWUNROTC Unit on their Service Selection!

Service Selection Class of 2016

- **Surface Warfare**
  - MIDN Moak
  - MIDN Keimig
  - MIDN Mueller (N)
  - MIDN Young (N)
  - MIDN Thornton (N)
  - MIDN Durkin (Intel)

- **Naval Aviation**
  - MIDN McDonald
  - MIDN Carmody

- **Submarines**
  - MIDN Kasturas

- **Nurse**
  - MIDN Charalambous

- **USMC**
  - MIDN Riffe
  - MIDN Davies
  - MIDN Callan
  - MIDN Bermudez
  - MIDN Engekelmier
Nuke Community Options
MIDN 1/C Mueller

With so many choices for service selection, it can be difficult to figure out how to rank your preferences. For those looking to enter the Nuke community this can be even more difficult given the three options: NR, SWO, and subs. After personally spending summer cruises with both the SWO (N) and submarine communities, I was able to gain insight on the different platforms and jobs.

As a SWO (N) you will do a conventional SWO tour, then go to power school, and finish with a carrier tour. While on a carrier or a submarine, the responsibilities are similar, however, I observed that the main difference was in the environment and how personnel interact. Since a submarine is more isolated, the environment is more relaxed. There are relaxed uniform standards underway, and the crew becomes fairly close, which leads to a greater feeling of camaraderie. However, the environment was still more professional than carriers, due to the difference in size. There are some drawbacks; which included limited port calls and not being able to go outside. Depending on the platform, some submarines do not make many port calls, and not being able to get fresh air for 3 months can be disheartening.

For those looking at selecting within the Nuke community, Nuclear Reactors Engineer (NR) is a great choice for those wanting a technically challenging position in DC. For some, submarines may seem to be a more attractive option. Finally, SWO (N) can be a good alternative for those looking for a mix of SWO and subs.

Dynamic and Intelligent Speakers at the Capitol Battalion
MIDN 2/C Cirilo

Being a member of the Capitol Battalion means we have access to incredible speakers. NROTC has given me opportunities to see the Secretary of Defense speak on issues of sexual assault, VCNO Howard explain the leadership legacy of our Battalion within the Navy and Marine Corps, and CDR Haney of Strategic Command explain his leadership style.

Every speaker we have had brings invaluable experience, but I particularly enjoy when VADM Thomas has been able to visit and engage the Battalion. He encourages midshipman to ask hard questions on any topic we want, and he never fails to give a comprehensive, concrete answer. He speaks to us with conviction, and has an expansive working knowledge of the biggest issues facing our Navy and world in a way that inspires me.

During his last Q&A session with the Battalion midshipman, I was able to ask him how he thinks the United States should respond to the hostilities of President Duterte of the Philippines, taking into consideration the importance of maintaining a strong US-Philippine alliance. His perspective as the former Commander of 7th Fleet meant he had a nuanced understanding from a leadership position on an issue I see and hear about on the news all the time. He spoke and answered questions on the new Navy enlisted rating modernization plan, the
growing civilian-military divide, working in a post Cold-War world, and the hazards of social media. Access to people like VADM Thomas is a privilege of the Capitol Battalion I am honored to be a part of.

**Zumwalt Commissioning Ceremony: the Most Advance Ship in the Fleet**

MIDN 4/C Pollock

On Saturday, 15 October, 13 Midshipmen from the GWU NROTC unit volunteered at the commissioning ceremony of the USS Zumwalt. Not only is the Zumwalt the Navy’s most advanced ship, but it is also the first ship in its class, setting the example as did its namesake, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt. Before the Midshipmen began their service as ushers for the event, they were given a priceless tour of the destroyer, seeing what truly separates this ship from the rest in the fleet.

DDG 1000 has numerous technical advances that allow stealth while sailing, such as the angled hull, creating a profile of a small fishing vessel on radar. Due to the prestigious technological advances featured in this destroyer, a crew of only 175 sailors is required to be fully operational. There are several systems that assist, or even replace, tasks that used to require a small crew to complete, such as the automated crash crew on the flight deck that is controlled by a single person.

As the guests began to arrive, the Midshipmen assisted in directing them toward their seating area for the ceremony. Not only were they helping out, but they were able to talk with some of the numerous military personnel in attendance, hearing what they do and any advice that they had to offer for future officers. There were several honorable speakers, including: The Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of Defense, the new CO and XO of the Zumwalt, Zumwalt family members, and individuals who were a part of the construction.

To me, the most memorable moment of the day was when Ann and Mouzetta Zumwalt gave the order to bring the ship to life. On that command, the crew ran from their formation at the rear of the ceremony onto the ship and manned their stations at attention. It was amazing to see the pride that these sailors took in their work and their future ship.
Mountain Warfare Training:

MIDN 2/C Lipsey

Who would’ve thought that walking would be so humbling? Mountain Warfare Training is surely a place where your ability to “not go internal” is tested.

If you were blessed with the opportunity to attend CORTRAMID, you’ll be graced with familiar faces. If not, you’d be surprised at how close a ten-day-lost-in-the-sauce struggle makes you to a complete stranger. In the female barracks specifically, the camaraderie grew like a flower out of concrete; the competitive tension ran out when the drenched MARPATS and open blisters walked in. Tips on hiking, from packing to skivvy-rolling, to finding a rhythm, to bun positioning, flew from bunk to bunk. It was evident that everyone had something to learn or something to share and the next day was our biggest competition.

I realized that the instructors didn’t care if I was the first up the hill or the quickest down; their greatest concern was with our levels of effort. They expect the most out of you; which is much more than what you believe to be your greatest feat. Of course, if you fell behind, you were swarmed. But the buzz soon became motivational direction, and before you knew it, you were right behind a fellow midshipman, mocking the rhythm of their strides and passing up words of encouragement. We also had a great opportunity to learn from enlisted Marines and overcome various fears. We were constantly being evaluated, but were also reminded that this wasn’t OCS. It was our chance before OCS to see how we performed compared to our peers and build camaraderie with our class.

I believe the latter opportunity was the most beneficial. I now know that going into OCS, I will be amongst women who understand me and are truly looking for me to succeed. My fondest memory of Mountain Warfare Training was with them in the barracks during Field Day. We had to clean the entire room in what I thought was an unreasonable amount of time. So halfway through we decided to scrub the entryway walls with Pine-Sol and another pleasant-smelling cleaning solution. The west side of the barrack held Staff Watch and when the “they’re approaching” alert sounded, the air near the door was given one last splash of an unknown cleaning supply and we scurried to our bedposts. As soon as the staff walked in, we heard “Oh yeah, it smells like that (***) as soon as you walk in, that’s how you know they cleaned!” Our greatest accomplishment thus far was achieved through group finesse.

Having a successful Mountain Warfare Training experience means constantly putting your best foot forward. Everyone there realized they had room for improvement, whether that meant more physical training, more leadership opportunities, or greater tactical awareness. The best advice gained from MWTC I can give fellow midshipmen is to take advantage of the opportunities given to be amongst peers from other units.
Professional Development at the Capitol Battalion

MIDN 3/C Lama

Attending school in DC, midshipmen in the GWUNROTC unit have an incredible amount of off campus professional development opportunities. As somebody interested in foreign affairs, I like completing my off campus requirements at think tanks like the Center for Strategic and International Studies. As the center is only a few minutes away from campus and has free public admittance to its events, it is easily accessible. Last year at CSIS, I got to ask Henry Kissinger a question and see other speakers, like ADM Haney, Commander of United States Strategic Command, who recently came in to speak to the battalion at leadership lab. As if you needed any more incentive, CSIS, as well as other think tanks, often have a good selection of food for attendees.

Although there are many off campus opportunities for those interested in foreign affairs, on campus there are several organizations, outside of the Elliott School, and School of Foreign Service, which facilitate internationally oriented events. At GW and Georgetown, there are the Delta Phi Epsilon sororities and fraternities, both geared towards careers in the foreign service. MIDN Olsen and myself are brothers, and MIDN Ivison is pledging this semester. We regularly hold events hosting ambassadors and high level speakers. Similarly, there is the co-ed fraternity, Sigma Iota Rho, which serves as the Elliott School’s honor society. Being a member of DPE or SIR also helps academically, as you are better acquainted with a motivated group of students who have similar academic interests as yourself.

Reveille

MIDN 3/C Clow

This past semester I have had the privilege and honor of serving as Reveille Commander. While initially I had no idea why I was placed in this billet, I now find myself wishing I could start the semester over in order to accomplish new goals and learn new songs.

With only six returning members, I was a tad afraid we were not going to be able to continue on. However, this semester Reveille had the fortune of adding ten new voices to our chorus. With this renewed strength we set to work on the semester’s largest task—Dining Out. We spent hours over the course of the semester in the Phillips Hall basement perfecting Anchors Aweigh and the Marine Corps Hymn. However, our greatest work was the National Anthem. Synchronizing the four different parts of the song and making sure each midshipman knew his or her part was quite the struggle. As someone who is not particularly musically gifted, this semester would have been difficult had it not been for the returning members of Reveille leading their respective sections.
I owe any success in Reveille this semester to Midshipmen Charalambous, Hotz, Kasturas, and Waskin. They were the backbone of Reveille and provided us all with feedback and helpful criticisms. It is through the work of all of the midshipmen in Reveille and their dedication to the mission that I am proud to present the George Washington University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Reveille. I am humbled by their diligent work and tireless effort, for if it were not for them, Reveille would be myself and a pitchpipe, a sound not many would like to hear.

Editor’s Note

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you have enjoyed reading Bearings as much as I have enjoyed creating it. Thank you to all of our authors and readers, without whom Bearings would not exist. Finally, let me express my most sincere gratitude to the man behind the camera, MIDN Lee, who not only provides the lovely photos for Bearings, but also for our official Facebook page. If you would like to support the GWU NROTC Battalion in our adventures, please consider supporting us by making a tax-deductible donation. We appreciate any and all support tremendously.

You can donate by:

1. Writing a check to NROTC Fund and sending it to:
   GWU NROTC Attn: NROTC Fund
   2035 F Street NW
   Washington DC, 20052

You can also “like” our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/GWUNROTC/

If you prefer, you can follow us on Twitter @GWUNROTC.

Thank you for your support.