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 us, many are finishing up with mid-term exams 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 December we commissioned four midshipmen into the U.S. Naval Services and we will commission another eighteen on May 16th 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 year 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 be faced. You are all strong, confident and skilled leaders and I know that the Sailors and Marines placed under your charge are in good hands.

There was particular emphasis placed on Navy Nuclear Power Program production this past year. As a result of that we had numerous guest speakers, to include Admiral John Richardson, VADM Melvin Williams (ret) and numerous other nuclear power program officers to provide you with the requisite information to inform your decisions. Due to the outstanding training sessions provided by LT Johnson, we have had eight selected for this prestigious program and another midshipman waiting on her interview. These production levels placed us at #3 of 67 units across the nation, and if we factor in unit size, we rank number 1 in terms of percentage.

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 Aircraft Carriers in Norfolk, San Diego, Pearl Harbor and Yokosuka, Japan. Rear Admiral Tom Rowden, Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV N96 and The George Washington University NROTC Flag representative) generously hosted our midshipmen at a recent event to congratulate them on their selection.

This summer we will be saying farewell to two outstanding staff members. LCDR Alex Dietrich Greene will be transferring to the U.S. Naval Academy as a Junior Permanent Military Professor and LT Alex Smith will be transferring to the Pentagon to serve as a Flag aide. Both of these outstanding 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 are heartfelt thanks and wish you fair winds and following seas. They will be replaced by LT Keith Howard and LT Jordan Dantas respectively. Welcome Aboard Keith and Jordan!

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! I look forward to seeing every one of you in the fall semester and look forward to welcoming our new fourth class midshipmen. 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
What is a command philosophy? The Battalion Commanding Officer’s (BCO) command philosophy, posted and briefed at the start of each semester, is often chalked up, in essence, to the school of thought in which the Battalion’s actions are to support. The extent to which the BCO’s command philosophy is understood, acted upon, and followed is important.

The real test, however, is whether the BCO’s philosophy has been inculcated as the core value by which each midshipman strives to conduct himself or herself each day in everything that they do. The BCO’s command philosophy is the method by which those core values are communicated and demonstrated down the chain of command and throughout the battalion in order to foster a unified effort to achieve the chosen set of goals. The most effective CO engenders, throughout all levels of a command, the personal commitment of each individual to emulate the leadership and integrity of their leaders.

The BCO’s Command Philosophy this semester is **Train as you Fight**. This Philosophy encompasses “Mastery of the Basics”, “Professional Development”, “Taking Initiative”, and “Teamwork”. These are succinct, motivating and essential components for Unit cohesion and success. They are the foundation that every Midshipman must master.

- **Mastery of the Basics**: Without a truly solid foundation, a Midshipman cannot support himself or herself, nor effectively support his or her Unit.

- **Professional Development**: As future officers, whether one is the Officer of the Deck (OOD) on a ship, an aviator in sole control of a multi-million dollar aircraft, or a marine officer leading the best warfighters in the world, we will find ourselves in central roles surrounded by those who look to us to make the right decision. Therefore, it is our responsibility to gather as much information in our intended career paths as possible so as to ensure that we live up to that duty, and serve our people to the best of our ability.

- **Taking Initiative**: A leader does not wait to be told to do something. Initiative is the key. Recognize an issue, analyze it, develop a solution and implement it.

- **Teamwork**: “One stick will snap, where a bundle will not”. Success depends upon our leadership and ability to work effectively and efficiently to achieve our assigned goals.

The Battalion has been privy to many a command philosophy over time. Philosophies are often heard, momentarily processed, and discarded within the hour. Through these summations of wisdom gained from personal experience, the BCO provides us a vision into the manner of thinking and behaving it would behoove each of us, as future naval officers, to adopt.

Each command philosophy offers a piece of an Officer’s own Command Philosophy. It is one person’s vision, which gives direction to others. It is the responsibility of each company, platoon, squad and ultimately, each individual to internalize the greater command philosophy, weave it into their own context, and to develop the BCO’s philosophy into their personal command philosophy in order to guide how they will develop into and become an accomplished Naval or Marine Officer.
Congratulations to the following ship-selected 1/c!

MIDN Michael Allis -
USS Winston Churchill out of Norfolk

MIDN Jaleesa Harrigan -
USS Bunker Hill out of San Diego

MIDN Joseph Kaplan -
USS Sterett out of San Diego

MIDN Christine McElhinney -
USS Curtis Wilbur out of Yokosuka

MIDN Andrew Petrone -
USS Hopper out of Pearl Harbor

MIDN Nicole Simila -
USS Abraham Lincoln out of Norfolk
Acts of Service

St Bladrick’s Event

By: MIDN 4/C Moak

On March 29th midshipmen from the George Washington University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit volunteered at the Saint Baldrick’s Society "Salute to our Littlest Heroes" fundraiser at Flanagan's Harp and Fiddle in Bethesda, Maryland. The fundraiser started at 11 in the morning and went until 3 in the afternoon. The Parents and Children Fighting Cancer support network out of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center hosted this event. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity that funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government.

Many of the children in attendance that day were cancer patients and survivors whose parents are in the military and stationed in the Washington D.C. region. All of the Midshipmen that attended the event performed a variety of jobs. Some of the jobs that the midshipmen performed were manning the check in booth, greeting patients and their families, as well as entertaining the young patients with face painting, arts and crafts, and temporary tattoos. Midshipmen that attended the event performed a variety of jobs. Some of the jobs that the midshipmen performed were manning the check in booth, greeting patients and their families, as well as entertaining the young patients with face painting, arts and crafts, and temporary tattoos.

Spring Break Tutoring

By: MIDN 4/C Mueller

Spring break is a time for Midshipmen to relax and take a break from their hectic lives, but for two MIDN at the unit this was a chance to give back. From 10-13 March, MIDN 2/C Lamar and I volunteered with MIDN 1/C Logan from the Naval Academy at the Phelps ACE High School.

The George Washington University is known for being heavily involved in community service. The Naval Academy took note of this and wanted to try and partner with us to give back. Ms. Mariam Stanicic from the Naval Academy was in charge of planning this event, and she expressed that the goal is to build a relationship among this high school and Midshipmen.

At my first tour of the school I was amazed. As we walked through the halls, the first thing I noticed, aside from the vibrant atmosphere, were the flags of various colleges pinned along the walls. The principle said that they wanted to really show students that they have options and can actually go to college if they try. As we continued through the school I was able to get an idea of the great opportunities the school is providing for their kids. They have entire rooms devoted just to electrical engineering, plumbing, welding, and more.

During these four days we helped tutor high school students in geometry. Tutoring these students was so rewarding. Most of the kids at this school will be first generation college students, and it is inspiring to see them putting in so much effort to achieving their goals. MIDN 2/C Lamar felt he got a lot out of it and said that he “really liked how immediate my impact was
men Johnson, Durkin, Prater and Williams all volunteered to shave their heads along with many of the cancer parents and siblings in show of support. This event was a great way for the George Washington NROTC unit to help out the community and show its support for the cancer patients and their families.

All together the “Salute to our Littlest Heroes” event raised a little over $28,000 dollars for childhood cancer. The fundraiser was a great success it raised much more than the original goal that they set. It was an exciting and fun event that will really make a difference to cancer patients by increasing the research with the amount of money that it raised. If you ever want to donate money in the future just look up the Saint Baldrick’s Society online and donate.

GWUNROTC TOYS FOR TOTS

By: MIDN 3/C Brown

This past holiday season the George Washington University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps participated in the annual Toys For Tots project. This year the project was orchestrated by Staff Sergeant Hymas. Over 80 Midshipman, Marine Corps and Navy enlisted going through the NROTC program stood at the Foggy Bottom and Farragut West metro stations as well as the Stamp Student Union on the University of Maryland campus seeking donations of toys and money for toys that would go to underprivileged children around the country. Cumulatively, over 188 man hours were put into the project by the unit this year. Midshipman 3/C William Tunney commented on his experience with the project, “On one occasion, a man who stopped to donate told us that he was a recipient of the program when he was a boy, and he emphasized
what a great job Toys for Tots does. It made standing there collecting even more worthwhile, knowing that the end result here is something truly amazing. Every child deserves a toy for the Holidays.” In total two filled boxes of toys as well as over $3300 was raised. The $3300 was used to buy toys from various stores with insight from the Midshipman themselves at places such as Toys R Us and sporting goods stores. Midshipman Tunney was a part of this group as well. "Heading in to Toys R Us, we felt like kids ourselves; the six of us took the $3300 everyone raised and bought gifts ranging from Barbie dollhouses to Lego fire trucks. Knowing that each toy was going to be delivered to a child a few days down the road made it an amazing experience. Between those of us fortunate enough to purchase the toys and the boys and girls who will receive them, it's tough to say who gets more joy out of this fantastic program." The toys raised by the GWU NROTC unit were delivered to the local Marine base to be distributed around the country.
For midshipman planning to enter the aviation community, the ASTB is a key component in service selection. Scoring well on the ASTB-E is necessary to be competitive so studying for the test is crucial for earning scores above the minimum 4/5 (AQR/PFAR).

But as of 09 December, 2013, the ASTB has been updated for the first time since 2004 with multiple and significant changes. Knowing these changes will help aviation candidates study effectively and adapt to the new dynamic testing components. These changes include the addition of a Performance Based Measures (PBM) section, Naval Aviation Trait Facet Inventory (NATFI), Biographical inventory with Response Verification (BI-RV), and the removal of spatial apperception and aviation supplemental tests.

The Performance-Based Measures section is a psychomotor test designed to assess multitasking skills. Using headphones and Hands On Throttle-And-Stick (HOTAS) configuration, the test will test the operators ability to track another “airplane” by using the throttle and stick to position crosshairs over an enemy aircraft on the screen. Emergency scenarios will also be included during the final airplane tracking task. The purpose of this section is to assess the tester’s ability to use the stick and multitask. Preparing for this subtest can be done using a flight simulator such as Microsoft Flight Simulator X to get a feel for throttle and stick movements.

Adding the Naval Aviation Trait Facet Inventory allows aviation candidates’ personalities to be assessed. Through studies, it has been found that aviation, due to the nature of the work, requires specific personality traits, such as confidence, lack of neurosis, competence, and self-discipline, just to name a few. For example, one would be asked if they feel they are confident in their ability to learn, or they feel they are capable of excelling in a variety of situations.

The Biographical Inventory with Response Verification is a questionnaire of background experience relevant to aviation. BV-RV relates to NATFI in that it assesses the candidates in a non-cognitive way while the reading and math assesses the cognitive ability.

Math skills, reading comprehension and mechanical comprehension from the previous exam are still present in the new test and can be studied through old practice tests. Removing the other components of the exam was due to the fact that there was no evidence supporting relationship of success in those subject fields to success in training.

Overall, the ASTB-E update is to better ensure the selection of candidates who will go on and succeed in aviation training. The ASTB-E still remains the primary tool for assessing flight officers and pilots ever since its implementation in 1941 and 1953, 1971, 1992, 2004, and 2014 updates.
Thinking about going Nuke? Always dreamed of taking the reins back in the engine room of a brand new Virginia class fast attack? Or maybe you’ve always dreamed of flying. Well that doesn’t matter. You’re getting a Nuke interview anyway, because—let’s face it—you’re too much of a nerd to sneak under the all-seeing radar (or sonar?) of Naval Reactors. So you might as well start planning your approach to the elusive four star interview now.

The whole battalion got to meet Admiral Richardson back in the fall when he spoke to us at the Marvin Center, but a few lucky 1/C got to spend some one-on-one time with Mr. Nuclear Power himself during their interviews. Let’s see what they said are the main “do’s and don’ts” when presenting yourself to the admiral.

Undoubtedly, the first rule—as with any high pressure interview—is to not get “psyched out.” Unfortunately the whole day is filled with possible psyche out situations, e.g. Admiral Rickover’s off balance midshipman interview chair on display right outside Admiral Richardson’s office. Interestingly enough, MIDN Vicchio had an intimidating encounter with the admiral before even entering his office. In the waiting room, a line of anxious midshipmen including Vicchio were surprised to see the admiral appear before them unannounced. The group snapped to attention and answered the admiral’s interrogatory “How are you all doing?” with a resounding “outstanding, sir!” He merely answered “I’ll be deciding that.” Key point: don’t let instances like that get in your head. If you think you’re going to do fine, then you probably will.

Next rule is not to incriminate yourself. Interviews range in time, with some being measured in terms of seconds, not minutes. MIDN Roche claims that his interview was less than five minutes, and the admiral asked him questions like “How do you think I did as a speaker at your lab” and “What was a problem you had to face in ROTC?” To Roche’s surprise, the admiral never asked him about grades or such pointed issues. The concept to remember is that you’re there at the convenience of the admiral. Don’t try to overstay your welcome or steer the conversation. Answer what he asks and elaborate only when directed to.

Finally, be ready when ADM Richardson asks the inevitable “Why do you want to go Nuke?” That was the first question I and many other midshipmen heard from the admiral, and you’d look pretty ridiculous if you didn’t have a well thought out answer.

So, hold on to your dream of being a SEAL for now, but keep these tips in mind as you’re doing your underwater cinder block upside down lunge-squats. And remember, there are worse (paying) jobs to be nudged into.
The 2014 GWU Navy ROTC Dining In was a night to remember. The night started off in good spirits with everyone socializing on the patio of the beautiful Army-Navy country club. Then came the time for everyone to march to their seats led by the Vice, MIDN Wallace. Inside, the mood of the room was full of pride and enthusiasm and the traditions soon began. Reveille started off the night with the singing of the National Anthem and the marching on of the Colors. The dinner started soon after, and with it came traditions such as the marching on of the beef, the grog bowl, and many creative and well performed fines. Poor MIDN Bond was shut down in his attempt to grog the infamous “Doop Squad”, however others like MIDN Riley, who handcuffed MIDN Hadley for his possession of an unauthorized weapons, were more successful.

After the entertainment of watching each other down the....interesting...taste of the grog we had the honor of being spoken to by the commanding officer of OCS, Colonel Van Opdorp. He spoke about his time as an NROTC student, and our future paths and careers of US Navy and Marine Corps officers. His words of encouragement surely motivated the battalion to live up to the standards his speech set for us. After listening to the Colonel’s remarks, the skits from each class and the staff were shown. Laughter was heard throughout the room as the battalion watched the creative and hilarious performances. With that the night ended on both a good and comical note and everyone headed home with their heads held high, taking home memories for a lifetime.
After two years of development, we are very excited to have finally launched our new website design for the George Washington NROTC Unit! After existing for more than 10 years, our website has been in dire need of a facelift. This year, our desire has been satisfied and our new site launched on March 24, 2014!

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Alex Greene, USN, spearheaded the effort to re-invent a dated and lackluster website. To set sail, she enlisted Midshipman (MIDN) 2/C Christine Conlon, then MIDN Information Technology Officer, to achieve three primary objectives: website conformance with George Washington University’s “Identity Standards & Guidelines,” increase accessibility for potential students, parents, alumni, and friends of the Unit, and most importantly, to enliven the website.

Called “the architect” by LCDR Greene, MIDN Conlon eagerly initiated the effort of creating a new website with analysis of GW-affiliated websites as well as surveying intended users. Her findings revealed the need for such features like the most commonly asked questions about the NROTC program, life as a midshipman, community service projects, archived information about the unit’s history, and web-forms to request battalion participation.

MIDN 2/C Michael Belcher joined MIDN Conlon’s efforts after his appointment as the new Information Technology Officer. Dedicated to achieving the goal, MIDN Conlon continued in the website’s development in a temporary billet assignment of MIDN Website Officer.

The goal of a vibrant new website was not without challenges. The first challenge came with creating the skeleton of the website consistent with the George Washington University’s “Identity Standards & Guidelines.” The team had to become proficient in Drupal, GWU’s software system for publishing web content, and endured hours of meticulously checking the new website to ensure the established standards were met.

The second challenge was creating the “wow factor” for the website. The team appraised the design from different perspectives; e.g., the Midshipman’s, the parent’s, the prospective student’s, and the alumni’s. It was at this point where the website development team gained a new member, MIDN 4/C Sam Hardgrove. Working together, the team created the prototype website. The next step was to ensure effective user navigation and proper website functioning.

In Spring Semester 2014, MIDN Hardgrove took the reins from MIDN Conlon and became the MIDN Website Officer. After a few more months of modification and fine tuning with the support of the Unit Staff and the green-light from GWU’s External Relations, three semesters of hard work and dedication culminated with the launch of the
new website on March 24, 2014.

The website team is extremely proud of the final product, and believes that, while the website is significantly improved, there is tremendous opportunity for enhancement. One feature currently underway is an online Ship’s Store, which will sell an exciting assortment of GWUNROTC gear, helping to promote the unit’s spirit, identity, and raise funds for the Battalion Activity Fund. Another future addition will be regular photo and video postings of Unit activities. We, the website development team, hope you enjoy the new website and welcome your feedback and suggestions by using the “Contact Us” on the webpage! Enjoy the site!
http://nrotc.gwu.edu/

Stay Connected

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

Follow us on Twitter @GWNRTOC

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel, The George Washington University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corp (GWUNROTC)

The GWU NROTC Unit encourages Alumni to stay in touch, and connected to the unit by joining the GWUNROTC Alumni Facebook page.

SHIP STORE

Unit Mugs (navy or scarlet) - $10
Unit Polos (USMC or Navy) - $25
Unit Challenge Coins – $5
Grey Unit T-shirt – $5

**Coming Soon** Fleece Pullover, Athletic Shorts

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

Editor: MIDN 2/C James, C.

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN 3/C Brown