CAPTAIN’S CORNER

Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

It’s been another great year here at KU, and although the summer would appear to be quiet we have plenty of projects to keep us busy. While the midshipmen are off on cruises, the stashed ensigns have been busy painting and prepping the Learning Resource Center (aka the Jeanna Marie Carkoski Memorial Lounge) for renovation. We call on our Alumni for donations of nautical artifacts that may be of interest to display in the LRC (lights, anchors, etc). If you have interest in donating anything, please contact us first so we can assess the item (we have limited space available) and method of delivery.

We are also planning our next Orientation and Indoctrination (O&I) for the incoming freshmen who will arrive in August. This week-long training session prepares them for life as a midshipman, but more importantly it provides an opportunity for them to get to know each other and form a close bond. If you haven’t heard, our O&I is now five days long, including time on the confidence course, our USMC obstacle course located on west campus, and KU’s leadership course, shooting range, swimming, drill, lots of running, and so on. Believe me when I say they are ready for it to end. It’s a long week, but the feedback we receive afterwards is 99% positive.

As I reflect upon the past year, we were very busy and productive. From turning over both LT instructors, to celebrating service birthdays, attending joint balls, participating in various competitions, and finally commissioning, we feel we’re producing extremely talented, professional, and eager officers into the fleet. With that said, I would like to personally congratulate our ten new officers that commissioned in December and May. I would also like to recognize the many students who received awards this year, and thank all the organizations and donors who make those awards possible. As many of you may be aware, we have been reaching out to our alumni to grow the Dwight Rickman Naval Award account over the last 2 years. We are excited to report a gain of nearly $10k in our endowed account, which gets us that much closer to our goal. We have awarded several scholarships from this fund and hope you consider contributing in the future so that we may help our midshipmen with the exorbitant costs associated with college. If you are interested in donating, you may either send a check to the Unit (made out to the Dwight G. Rickman Naval Award), or do so online via our website: http://www2.ku.edu/~kunrotc/.

As always, we would like to welcome our Alumni to visit us at the Military Science Building anytime! The Annual Alumni Homecoming Tailgate will be on September 27th. We hope to see you here to root on the Jayhawks with us! The Military Science Building light is always on for its alums…please stop by.

-CAPT Dave Schweizer, USN
Commanding Officer
KU NROTC Unit

A JAYHAWK NAVY FINAL SALUTE

CAPT JOSEPH O. MARZLUFF, USN (RET)
KU NROTC COMMANDING OFFICER: 1969-74

Captain Joseph O. Marzluff, USN (Ret.), died on January 6, 2014 in Beaufort, South Carolina. He was 92 years old. A native of Chillicothe, Ohio, Joe attended St. Mary's Catholic grade and high schools and in 1938 he enrolled in the School of Engineering at The Ohio State University. In those first few weeks of his freshman year he met his future wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Polli, at a Newman Club mixer. His stay at OSU was shortened by the events of those days and he actively pursued an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and he was accepted in August of 1941. Graduating in June of 1944, Joe embarked upon a 30 year career as a Naval Officer. As an ensign in WWII, he commanded an LST (Landing Ship Tank), participating in the repatriation of Japanese POWs and later participating in and witnessing the Atom Bomb Tests at Bikini Atoll. Tours ashore were in Turkey and as an Assistant Professor in the NROTC unit at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In 1957-59 he attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, graduating with a Master of Science Degree in Physics and Mathematics. Other sea and shore commands followed, including a tour in Viet Nam in the Mekong Delta and command of the Naval Mine Warfare School in Charleston, South Carolina. His final tour of duty was at the University of Kansas where he was the Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer of the NROTC unit. While at KU, he became active in faculty affairs and was elected to the faculty senate and to the faculty executive committee. Upon his retirement from the Navy, Joe was awarded Professor Emeritus status at the University. Retiring from the military in 1974, Joe had a second career as a real estate broker and developer, retiring completely in 1986. While in Lawrence, Kansas, he enjoyed KU sports, hunting, fishing, and volunteering for many organizations including Habitat for Humanity and the senior services center. He was very active in the Brandon Woods Town Home Community where he lived until moving to South Carolina in 2011. Membership in the Breakfast Optimist Club, KU Alumni Association, Naval Academy Alumni Association, and the Knights of Columbus and church activities made further demands on his time and provided an outlet for him. Joe's wife of 67 years, Betty, predeceased him two years ago. Joe spent the last 10 years of her life caring for her at the Brandon Woods nursing facility in Lawrence, Kansas. Joe is survived by his three sons, Michael (wife Marcie), a graduate of OSU and a retired neurosurgeon, Charleston, S.C.; Peter (wife Deborah), a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a retired Rear Admiral, Seabrook, S.C.; and John (wife Colleen), a professor of wildlife science in Snohomish, WA. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

HAIL AND FAREWELL!
-MIDN 3/C RAYMOND HOWER

In October, the NROTC unit at the University of Kansas welcomed a new staff member, LT Wheatley. With him, LT Wheatley brings almost 20 years of experience in the United States Navy, particularly in the Surface Warfare community. LT Wheatley began his career by enlisting in the Navy. He was picked up for the STA-21 Program where he attended Jacksonville University. In early 2013, Lieutenant Wheatley's last
command before reporting to KU was the US Army Command and General Staff College.

In February, LT Duenas departed from our battalion heading out to Norfolk, VA. We are extremely thankful for all the knowledge he shared with us over the years and wish him the best of luck as he continues his career in the Navy.

In March, we welcomed a new submarine officer, LT Schrader, and bid farewell to LT Fleenor. LT Schrader has brought a positive attitude along with a variety of knowledge for the Midshipmen to learn from. LT Schrader attended the University of Florida where was studied Chemical Engineering. His last command before reporting to the University of Kansas was the USS Michigan. We are very excited to have him be a part of our battalion over the next two years.

After 8 years, LT Fleenor separated from the Navy. LT Fleenor was a model JO (Junior Officer) for the midshipmen. He displayed composure, humility, and knowledge. We are appreciative of the knowledge he shared with the midshipmen in our battalion and the example he set as the type of officer we should strive to be.

**SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAMS**

**NURSING CRUISE**

-MIDN 3/C SYDNEY JOURDAN

For my 3/C Nurse Cruise, I was stationed on the USS Ronald Reagan in San Diego, California for four weeks. While underway, I was able to see many of the aircraft carrier functions. On my tour of the ship, I was able to see the massive nuclear reactors, the flight deck and flight operations, and the navigation bridge where I got to steer the aircraft carrier.

The majority of my stay was spent in the medical department where I met the physicians, ship’s nurse, and many corpsmen. All were very helpful in teaching me about their own department within medical. During sick call, I was able to take care of my own patients by looking at records, taking vitals, doing physcials, taking blood, and giving shots and IVs. At one point, the ship’s surgeon allowed me to perform minor surgery on a patient by giving him localized anesthesia before making an incision in this patient’s abscesses and then drain and pack the patient’s wound. Another aspect of the duties assigned in medical included being on watch, which consisted of spending the night in the medical department in case there was an emergency.

There was also medical emergency training that the nurse options were able to take part in which taught how to take care of a variety of wounds including burns, smoke inhalation, electrical shock, compound fractures, abdominal wounds with protruding intestines, and amputations. During mass casualty drills, we were able to practice these steps.

In port, I had the opportunity to tour the Land Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) that was located at Camp Pendleton. Touring the facility, I learned a lot about the capability and the advantages of the LCAC and their significance in the Navy as well as the Marine Corps.

During my final week in San Diego, the ship’s nurse set up a tour of the Naval Medical Center in San Diego for all the nurse option midshipmen. There, we were able to tour all the departments of the hospital and meet with many members of the nurse corps who answered many of our questions. After the tour, we were able to spend time in a specialty we found interesting, which for me, was labor and delivery. In that time, I observed an epidural that was given by one of the many anesthesiologists.

When the delivery came closer, the nursing staff allowed me to assist in giving the nurse and nurse midwife any of the tools they needed and witnessed the birth of a newborn baby girl. Watching the nurse and nurse midwife working together was amazing because it solidified for me that being a nurse midwife in the United States Navy will be a huge goal of mine.

Overall, I had a wonderful experience. Not only was I able to explore the many decks and departments of an aircraft carrier, but I also was able to talk to people working in those areas and have a better understanding of life in the Navy. I was also able to see many parts of San Diego, discovering the USS Midway museum and exploring the many beaches and districts. The experiences I received during my time was incredible. I learned a great amount about the community and the job I am preparing to enter.

**CORTRAMID EAST**

-MIDN 3/C MARLEY FISHER

Overall, my experience during CORTRAMID East was much more fun and influential than I had originally anticipated. The first day went really well. I came fully prepared for the month; some other MIDN had not received any information from their units on what to bring, so I was thankful to have the preparation that I did. There were eight companies total, A-H. I was assigned to Echo Company, whose first community visit was the Marines.

For week 1, we took a bus to North Carolina and stayed at Camp Lejeune. While this was the most physically demanding week, I enjoyed the intensity and learning more about the Marine lifestyle. We were able to do many adventurous things like repel, fight with pugil sticks, run the obstacle course, CH-53 helicopter ride, and shoot four different guns at the range. Marine week was very well utilized; as a result, every bit of sunlight was put to its maximum use.

Week 2 was the only week that fell short of my expectations. My surface warfare week was spent aboard the USS Gungston Hall LSD 44. I appreciated having the opportunity to go underway on a ship, but I was disappointed by the experience. Our crew was extremely busy handling numerous technical difficulties aboard the ship, and I was disappointed with how the officers attempted to “recruit” us to their community. While I went around the ship on my own and with other MIDN, I was simply dissatisfied with the lack of structure and schedule there was for us aboard the ship.

Week 3 was spent in Kings Bay, GA, aboard the USS Rhode Island SSBN 740. Within one hour of being in Georgia, everyone knew just how much more prepared this week was going to be. We were given a day-by-day schedule of what we would be doing and they also provided us with information about the base as well as contact information for all of the staff. Each member involved with submarine week knew how to “sell their community” and they did it very well. I became very intrigued by the idea of the submarine community, even though my first interest is still MedCorps. I spoke with many officers throughout this week and can really see myself being part of such a prestigious community. If I could have had one more week of CORTRAMID, I would have definitely wanted it to be sub week.
Last, but certainly not least, was Aviation week. Each day we did something different and I enjoyed each day, especially swim qualifications and riding in the SH-60 helicopter. There was a lot about aviators that I had not known prior to this week, so I certainly learned a lot. I thought the pilots sold their job very well, but it is still not a community I could see myself being a part of. Along with aviation week came a lot of liberty time. It was nice because we were all able to grow closer as friends and network even better. I learned a lot about the differences in NROTC units and can gladly say I am proud of where I come from.

Overall, this all was an outstanding experience and I’ll never forget it. As MIDN Neely agrees, “It was a time of my life where I got to meet wonderful people, get a glimpse of each job in the fleet, and do things that most people can ONLY dream about! CORTRAMID was an awesome experience for me.” CORTRAMID was a great motivator of how rewarding it is to have the chance to be a part of the world’s best military force, as well as the importance of living up to the high demands of the United States Navy. I will continue to give every endeavor my all in order to make my family proud.

**CORTRAMID WEST**  
-MIDN 3/C MATTHEW JEFFERIS

Career Orientation Training of Midshipmen West, or CORTRAMID West, was a great experience to introduce Midshipmen to all career options in the Navy and Marine Corps. The entire summer cruise took place over a one month period where each week was spent with a different branch of the Navy and Marine Corps.

I arrived and my first week was Surface Warfare week. First, we toured the new Littoral Combat Ship and saw the LCS Independence and LCS Freedom. After we toured those ships we went underway on the USS Gridley. The USS Gridley is a destroyer and we were underway from approximately 0800 to 1700. We then took a tour of the Navy Seabee equipment. Lastly, we had a Surface Warfare picnic.

The second week was Sub Week. Before we went underway on the submarine we listened to several briefs on the different types of subs. We also used a submarine simulator which simulated diving and controlling the submarine. The culminating event of Sub Week was going underway on the USS Louisiana SSBN-743 for a little over a day (location classified). While underway I got to “fly” the submarine, shoot “water slugs” out of the torpedo tube, eat dinner with the XO, listen to sonar, and climb into the torpedo tube. The end of the torpedo tube sits two inches outside of the hull so part of me was outside the sub while underwater. After we got back we had a classified brief on U.S. subs.

The third week was Marine Week. First, we traveled to Miramar and had several tours of different platforms that Marine aviation consists of. After that we arrived at Camp Pendleton and situated ourselves in the barracks. We then went to an Obstacle Course and practiced different parts of the course. The next day we ran the O-course for time. We also fought with Pugil sticks and got brief training in MCMAP. Later that day, we had weapons handling training and used an electronic simulator and fired weapons. That night we went to the range and had live fire M4 training. The following day we loaded up in 7-ton trucks and went to a range and had a Combined Arms assault demonstration. After the combined arms assault we fired all the weapons in the assault. Weapons included: M2 .50 cal machine guns, M240B, M249, M203 grenade launchers, and Barrett .50 cal sniper systems. After we fired all the weapons we went to an artillery battery and fired live rounds downrange. We then went on a 1.9 mile hike to our bivouac sight. We then had basic training in MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain). The following day we ran through the IIT (Infantry Immersion Trainer) which is the Marine Corps closest simulation to combat. I was a squad leader and I was in charge of three fire teams when we entered. My fire teams were fellow Midshipmen and we had a mission that needed to be completed. The final day was a motivation run and once that was completed we went home.

Final week for me was Aviation week. There was a lot of logistics that went into this week. To be qualified to fly we had to get bailout training and pass a swim test. Once that was completed we visited several helicopter squadrons and toured their shops. We eventually flew in an SH-60, which took us around the San Diego area. The final event of CORTRAMID for me was flying a T-34. Once we were in the air the pilot demonstrated several maneuvers and eventually I had the opportunity to do those maneuvers. Lastly, we went to Naval Base Coronado and briefly visited the SEALs. We ran their Obstacle course. While we ran we saw candidates from BUD/s training conducting different evolutions. Once we had all run through the O-course we packed our gear and said our goodbyes, CORTRAMID was over.

CORTRAMID was an absolute blast and a great experience. My favorite part of CORTRAMID was anything that took place during Marine Week. CORTRAMID provides vital career path information while giving all Midshipmen valuable leadership experience in the process. Also, it was great to meet other Midshipmen from across the country and share stories and experiences about NROTC.

**OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL**  
-MIDN 1/C COREY BREDESON

Officer Candidate School (OCS) is a 6 week course that all prospective Marine officers must go to and pass in order to earn a commission into the United States Marine Corps. The mission of OCS is to train, screen, and evaluate officer candidates to ensure that they possess the mental, physical, and moral qualities necessary to become successful officers in the United States Marine Corps. Candidates are being watched at all times during this course and their actions may be recorded and evaluated by the staff at any given moment. This puts a lot of stress on the candidate to always be living up to the leadership traits and core values of the Corps. This boils down, in simple terms, to not only being doing the right thing at all times but to be striving to do the best thing at all times.

There are times when candidates are placed in leadership roles so the staff can have them in the spot light to evaluate their abilities to lead through physical adversity and fatigue and the stressful and chaotic nature of the training. This stress is applied in the classic Marine Corps manner of having the instructors who are ever present, yell and demand extremely everything a candidate to always be living up to the leadership traits and core values of the Corps. This boils down, in simple terms, to not only being doing the right thing at all times but to be striving to do the best thing at all times.

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This past summer KU NROTC sent two midshipmen (MIDN) to OCS, MIDN Frickey and myself, MIDN Bredeson. We both passed and enjoyed a luxury of being in the same platoon throughout
the training. The training was very difficult and pushed me to new levels I had never gone to before but the training from the first three years all culminated in passing this course. In the end, I had to rely on this training and persevere through the hard conditions the staff made for us in Quantico. It was this extreme difficulty that made marching across Brown Field for graduation such a memorable and fulfilling experience but I, and I’m sure every other candidate there, was more than ready to go home, see their families, and enjoy the great food and sleep that had been denied to us for over a month.

**MOUNTAIN WARFARE**
- MIDN 2/C BENJAMIN ALLMAN

From 21 June to 30 June of the past summer, I had the pleasure of traveling out to Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California with MIDN 2/C Austin Cataudella. We were both excited to not only have the chance to be reunited with MIDN we had met last summer at CORTRAMID, but also to be exposed to basic Marine Corps training in one of the most exciting atmospheres the United States Military has to offer.

Both of us landed in Reno International Airport on 21 June, joining up with MIDN from other universities awaiting the 2-hour bus ride down to the Training Center. During our travel from the airport, many of the MIDN discussed how they had heard from older MIDN that MWT (Mountain Warfare Training) had been an easy “stroll in the park” week of basic exposure training with minimal yelling and discipline from the staff. That perception changed immediately upon our arrival at the Training Center. We were greeted by four very loud Assistant Marine Officer Instructors (AMOIs) from different universities serving as our Platoon Sergeants for the week. They quickly made it clear to us that they would be expecting speed, intensity, and discipline for the entire duration of our training, an overall atmosphere similar to that found at Officer Candidate School. Although it was only an “OCS-prep week” for us, the simulation was overall a beneficial one. It not only made the week more efficient and realistic to USMC training, but gave us MIDN the chance to experience what we will be journeying into next summer at OCS.

The approximately 225 MIDN were quickly separated into four Platoons, each commanded by an AMOI with a MIDN staff set up shortly after arrival. Over eight days we engaged in many different training evolutions amongst the mountainous regions. A major area taught throughout the week was basic survival skills in an outdoor ranging, and we were fortunate enough to have several of the most knowledgeable experts on survival skills within the Marine Corps present to instruct us. We were trained in the art of prolonged fire constructing, survival shelter building, rope tying, outdoor food storing, water purification, and basic land navigation. Many of these lessons and classes were then put into practical application at the two landing zone camp sites that we stayed at, LZ Hopper and LZ Penguin. Furthermore, the MIDN spent a total of three nights out in the field learning the proper ways to set up shelter and remain warm in the cold temperatures of mountainous Northern California (reaching a low of 28 degrees Fahrenheit the second night). While many MIDN will embark upon officer specialties that will never allow them a chance to put these lessons and experiences into practice, it must be said that a general appreciation for Marines who operate within such circumstances was accomplished throughout the week.

Furthermore, MIDN were also afforded the chance to engage in the more physical side of mountainous survival and operations. We twice hiked to and from the aforementioned landing zones in which we stayed at, with the former being a 3 mile hike and the latter being 6 miles. Though MIDN came to the Training Center exposed already to combat hikes with heavy gear loads, the high altitudes and temperatures certainly came as a surprise and added reminder of how the USMC operates in vastly different areas around the world (the 6 mile hike saw a gain of nearly 3,500 feet within the evolution). Along with the hikes, MIDN engaged in other more physically demanding evolutions, including open-faced cliff climbing and repelling, river crossing (by means of rope harnesses attached to the body), and physical training runs through the mountainous regions. These evolutions, like the survival evolutions, fostered a deeper appreciation for the strength and endurance USMC Officers must possess to not only complete the physical mission at hand, but set an example of fitness to the Marines they lead.

After eight days at the training center, MIDN Cataudella and I were transported off the base with our fellow MIDN back to Reno International Airport to return home from the training. After 5 months of reflection on the training, I consider it valuable exposure training not only for Marine Option MIDN across the country, but for anyone who would seek a position within the United States Military. Not only were we able to experience the necessary survival and physical skills needed for mission success within the military, but we also were able to venture into the world of mountainous training that few understand or have experienced firsthand. While the War in Afghanistan is coming to an end and direct mountain operations will decrease in frequency within the USMC itself, I consider myself fortunate to have been able to experience this training over the past summer. I certainly have a more acute sense of the expertise and physical readiness that every USMC Officer must have, and will hopefully be placed in a position to execute the skills I gained at Mountain Warfare Training Center when leading Marines in the very near future. Semper Fi!

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**FALL SEMESTER EVENTS**

**ALUMNI TAILGATE AND SALUTE TO SERVICE**
- MIDN 3/C STEPHEN WALKER

In order for a young person to become a successful officer they need to learn from the people who have gone before them. Without the advice of past and present officers, NROTC students would be entering the fleet blind. They would have no idea what to expect when they arrived for their first day. Luckily the NROTC Unit at the University of Kansas has an extensive alumni network made up of many past officers who are willing to take the time to help those future Navy and Marine Corps officers who are looking to be successful in all of their ventures.

Annually, the Unit invites the alumni to a tailgate reunion during football season. This event takes place in the parking lot of the Military Science Building where all of the active duty staff, midshipmen, and alumni gather to grill hamburgers and share stories. This year the tailgate coincided with the Salute to Service game. This is an incredible opportunity for the Midshipmen in the Unit to get exposure to people who have been through a very similar situation. The stories and advice that the alumni share is invaluable in helping future officers succeed in the highest possible manner.

After the tailgate everyone gets together to walk up to Memorial Stadium for the football game. Although the University of Kansas is not known for their excellence in football, the game is an opportunity for all of the ROTC students from all of the different branches to come together and support their school. During the Salute to Service game, all of the units sit together in a special section of the stadium. Then, after KU scores, around ten students from each branch run out into the end zone and do pushups. Although pushups do not do justice to the sacrifices that are made by the men and women in the Armed Forces, the event was a great opportunity for all of us to come together and make memories.
Services, the act does help the rest of the student body at KU take a moment to remember those who serve. When the ROTC Midshipmen and Cadets take the field, they are helping remind the rest of the world that there are more important things going on in the world than football. Because of this, the Salute To Service game is always one during which both teams put aside their differences and rivalries to honor those who make the biggest sacrifices. It is incredible to watch thousands of people stand and sing the National Anthem and instead of being two football teams, we are all just one country.

NAVY BIRTHDAY
-MIDN 4/C DALTON PRINS

On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress voted to commission two sailing ships to intercept enemy transport ships carrying ammunition, goods, and other supplies to the British army in America. This early act of legislation made by the Continental Congress is what our modern Navy is based upon.

This year, the 238th Navy Birthday fell on a Sunday, when Battalion activities were on leave for the weekend. To make up for this, the official cake cutting ceremony was held the following Wednesday on the sixteenth. Commander Chris A. Higginbotham, the Executive Officer for the battalion gave the Midshipmen a quick history lesson regarding the birthday of both the United States Navy and Marine Corps, and why the birthdays are where they are in history.

Once Commander Higginbotham finished, the Midshipmen and staff were all called to attention as the Commanding Officer, Captain David D. Schweizer, entered the room. After giving his speech about the importance of the Navy birthday, the 2013 Navy Birthday Message video was played that included both Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathon W. Greenert and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens. Their speeches included brief explanations of why the United States Navy has made the service what it is today.

After the messages were completed, the oldest and youngest members of the battalion were chosen to cut the cake with the ceremonial sabre, as per naval tradition. The youngest member, Midshipman 4/C Anne Henselman, was first to cut the enormous cake, followed by the eldest member of the battalion, Captain Schweizer. Each member of the battalion was then given a piece of cake, and the Navy Birthday celebration had officially started.

After classes on Friday, the Midshipmen and staff of the battalion all met at Buffalo Wild Wings to begin their informal celebration of the Navy Birthday. The night was full of eating, drinking, talking, watching the World Series game on the television screens, and enjoying each other’s company. For most of the Midshipmen, this was the first time that they could talk to their superior officers as a person rather than as a boss. “During [O&I], we were given an impression that our superior officers were stiff and didn’t know how to have fun. But that night was the first time we saw everyone relax, and finally let loose,” said Midshipman 4/C Jacob Schaffer.

The celebration of the 238th Navy Birthday was a huge success, and was enjoyed by the entire University of Kansas Naval ROTC battalion. Midshipman 4/C Nicholas Herren said, “I really hope we’re able to do this again next year! This was definitely one of the highlights of the semester so far.” “It was cool being able to relax with everyone in the battalion for once,” said Midshipman 4/C Ryan McMahon.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
-MIDN 4/C STEVEN MUNIE

Sunday, November 10, was the 238th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps was born on November 10, 1775 when the Second Continental Congress decreed that two battalions of Marines were to be raised to fight against Great Britain. It was at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where the first Marines enlisted under Commandant Samuel Nicholas and since then tens of thousands more have joined the greatest military force in the world. From the first assault on Fort Nassau to current engagements worldwide the USMC has remained the strongest and most formidable foe that any nation could face.

In celebration of this 238th birthday the 9th Marine Corps District held a ball on Friday, the 8th of November. Our Semper Fi Society attended the ball and Commanding Officer Colonel Minick recognized all of us. Being only a freshman midshipman, it was an inspiration to have the CO of the 9th District Marines recognize all of us.

A few speeches were given during the ceremony from the CO and guest of honor along with birthday messages from the past and current Commandant. Colonel Renforth, whom the Commanding Officer called “Sparky”, was the guest of honor. He was a very bold speaker who gave a very exciting message and a fantastic example of a Marine Corps officer.

Out of the entire ball my favorite favorite part was being able to spend time with Marines I had never met before and still have an amazing time. Navy option midshipman Anna Henselman commented on the ball saying, “My favorite part was the dancing because I got to see the way everyone actually acts when they aren’t in military mode.” I agree with this, as it was a nice change to see everyone let loose and have a good time.

The next week our battalion had its own celebration at KU. After PT, in the Battalion Learning Resource Center, we had a big Marine Corps chocolate cake bearing the eagle, globe, and anchor. Much like at the ball our oldest Marine, Captain Collins, Marine Officer Instructor, cut the first piece and handed it off to the youngest, MIDN Kieran Bateman.

The 238th Marine Corps Birthday Ball was a major success and everyone had fun. It was a wonderful experience that went off without a hitch and I look forward to attending the 239th Birthday Ball next year.

VETERAN’S DAY WEEKEND
-MIDN 3/C MATTHEW JEFFERIS

The Veteran’s Day Run took place on 10 November 2013. The race started at 0900 and the route took the runners around campus. The route had the runners run by all three war memorials and eventually end at Memorial Stadium. The Veteran’s Day Race was a success and a great opportunity for members of ROTC and member of the community to go out and get some PT. In the future, all Midshipmen should look forward to being the Point of Contact for this event because it will give that Midshipmen valuable leadership experience. This was not the only event to occur over Veteran’s Day weekend. Every year the NROTC Midshipmen and the Cadets from the Air Force and Army ROTC units stand watch at memorials at the University of Kansas. The vigil started on Friday evening and continued until Saturday afternoon. The Midshipmen and Cadets stood watch at the World War II,
Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials in one hour shifts. Although no one can ever repay the Veteran’s for their service or the Fallen for their sacrifice, the vigil represent the fact that the Armed Services will forever be indebted to those who have given their lives for this country. It is one small thing we, as ROTC Midshipmen and Cadets, can try to honor those who have gone before us.

The last event that took place over Veteran’s Day weekend was a dinner with many veterans who came back to visit and share stories. During this ceremony, there was a POW MIA table to remember those who have given the greatest sacrifice. During the dinner, the Midshipmen were able to listen to the veteran’s share stories and talk about their times in the military.

JOINT SERVICE BALL
- MIDN 3/C IAN MIRSCH

Every fall semester the members of the University of Kansas ROTC come together to honor our commissioning seniors, the bond we all have as future leaders of the United States Military, to celebrate and have fun. This year, I was fortunate to work with the Air Force and Army to help organize the Joint Service Ball (JSB). This year, the ball was held at the Holiday Inn Holidome on November 22nd and lasted from 1800-2300.

The JSB started at 1800 with a cocktail hour, where all of the various branches were able to socialize and look at a slideshow of this year’s commissioning seniors. After cocktail hour, the midshipmen and cadets entered the dining hall to begin the evening’s ceremonies. The first ceremony we observed was the seating of the head table, which included each unit’s CO and guest and the guest speaker. After the all attendees were seated, a joint color guard consisting of representatives from each branch marched into the hall and posted the colors.

Following the posting of the colors, we took time to reflect on those service men and women who have come before us and on our brother and sister service members who could not attend the gathering. I found this section of the ceremony to be quite moving. An Air Force Cadet read a poignant prayer. The prayer was followed by a ceremony to honor service members designated as either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action (POW/MIA). During this ceremony, one representative from each branch of the service: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, placed a cover of his respective branch at a lone table. Following the POW/MIA table ceremony, everyone took their seats and we began dinner.

After a great dinner, we were treated to words of wisdom from the guest speaker, Air Force Col. (Ret) Hoxie. Col. Hoxie went to the podium and gave a short, but profound speech about what we as midshipmen and cadets are preparing to undertake. Col. Hoxie also spoke about our shared history as service members. He elaborated on how we may have our rivalries and petty differences, but at the end of the day we are all on the same team and we all need to support each other through the trials we will face.

As Col. Hoxie stepped down from the podium, the commissioning seniors formed outside to begin the senior presentation. Per JSB tradition, we honor the commissioning seniors of the Navy and Maine Corps, Air Force, and Army battalions by having them walk through a joint service saber arch and shake our CO’s hand. It was a very surreal and emotional experience for many of the seniors. One commissioning senior expressed to me his feelings on the senior presentation. He said... “For the last three years, I have watched all of the seniors do this (walk under the sabre arch) and I have sat back and thought about how long it will be for me to be in their place. I’m finally here and it’s crazy to think that in just a few short months I will be in the fleet”. As I reflected on this midshipman’s words I, too, realized how astonishing an experience it was for the seniors, and how lucky I was to help facilitate this ceremony.

After all of the seniors had passed under the sabre arch, and the colors had been retired the dancing portion of the evening began. While both Army and Air Force branches expeditiously vacated from the event, the Navy and Marine Corps battalion occupied the dance floor and partied the night away. Personally, this was my favorite part of the night. I was able to see everyone’s dance moves, and I was honestly impressed by what some of our midshipmen and officer candidates are capable of doing.

When all is said and done, the 2013 Joint Service Ball was a complete success. Everyone I talked to through the course of the evening said that it was extremely fun, and that they can’t wait for next year’s Joint Service Ball. I hope that I have the opportunity to work this event next year. It was enjoyable and a good learning experience for me.

WINTER COMMISSIONING AND 2013 CONCLUSION
- MIDN 3/C NICOLE SPECKIN

The end of the school year is usually a stressful time for most people. Teachers assign last minute projects and students are trying to cram for their finals while still getting homework done on time. Since there are so many different things going on in every student’s life, the NROTC Unit at the University of Kansas strives to relieve some of the stress of the last part of the semester. This year that was done in many different ways. During the last PT of the semester, we all played dodgeball against each other; underclassmen played against upperclassmen, Navy played against Marines, and boys played against girls. In this way, we were all able to come together and get some exercise, while still having a good time and taking our minds off the pressures of school.

During the last lab of the semester the battalion had an ugly sweater party and played Navy Jeopardy. Usually during the lab times we have General Military Instruction or various briefs over different aspects of being in the Navy and Marine Corps. Although the information is very relevant to our future lives, oftentimes having another class to sit through after an already full day can weigh on a person. Through the ugly sweater party and game lab our unit was able to bring us together and take our minds off of our other classes for a little while.

After finals week is finally over, we are able to witness the commissioning of the seniors who have worked for the past four or five years to get where they are. This past semester, ENS Brandon Ware and ENS Justin Davis were commissioned into the United States Navy. They will both be heading to flight school in the next couple of months to fulfill their dreams of becoming pilots. Watching these newly commissioned officers, and the others who have gone before them, succeed in many different aspects of their lives inspires all of the rest of us in the unit to as hard as we possibly can to achieve all of the accomplishments we want out of life.
SEALs WEEKEND
-MIDN 4/C ANDREW ROBINSON

The SEAL event at the University of Notre Dame was a great experience. It lasted for about two days in total, half of Friday all of Saturday and half of Sunday. The purpose of the event was to help prepare Midshipmen for a future in the special warfare community. It was led by the SEAL SWCC scout team but Captain Morrison was also in attendance. The SEAL SWCC scout team is a special group that runs the F.T.P. or Fleet Transition Program which is tasked with preparing both officers and enlisted sailors for SEAL/SWCC training. Captain Morrison, however, is an active duty SEAL who is in charge of which Midshipmen get to be a SEAL and personally interviewed the Midshipman in attendance.

Throughout the weekend we spent most of our time in a classroom setting. We talked to active duty navy seals and leaders of the F.T.P. program. The information they gave us was invaluable. We learned about the interaction between a SEAL officer and his enlisted. We also talked about what to expect from the application process to become a SEAL officer and how to increase your chances. Important events in SEAL history that we should know when we report to mini BUD/s and questions that we would be asked in the interviews were only a fraction of what all we learned.

My time at Notre Dame has completely altered how I will approach becoming and officer in the Navy SEALs. I found out about the F.T.P. program and how they can help me pass SEAL training. I have spent a week already with F.T.P. and learned even more. At Notre Dame I found out several misconceptions of the application process. They instructed us on proper swimming technique and information we need to learn before arriving at mini BUD/s. My time at Notre Dame was well spent and I have been able to prepare myself to a higher level with the knowledge I have gained.

COACH CHARLIE WEIS
-MIDN 2/C EVAN KEY

Coach Weis has led an impressive career coaching for professional teams such as the Patriots, Giants, and the Chiefs. Coach Weis also coached for the University of Notre Dame as well as the University of Florida. Some of his most notable accomplishments include contributing to the Patriots winning 3 Super Bowls while serving as Offensive Coordinator and winning the 2005 Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. On March 19, 2014, Head Coach Charlie Weis of the KU Football Team visited the KU NROTC unit during the unit’s weekly navy lab course to talk about his experiences over his esteemed career and to share his personal opinions regarding what makes a great leader.

While talking the KU NROTC unit Coach Weis used many personal anecdotes to convey his thoughts on leadership. Ultimately, Coach Weis believed leadership “boiled down to two simple things. 1) A leader must make his people do their jobs. 2) And more importantly, convince his people to put the team first before themselves.” He adamantly followed up with the comment that “People always are willing to work harder when they have fully bought into the cause.” After setting up his own personal definition of leadership Coach Weis then began to elaborate on his next key point of how he coached his football players to buy into the team first mentality. He used several more interesting anecdotes, each with a healthy dose of comedic relief, to sell his tactic of approaching how he communicated with each of his players uniquely in order to connect with them in the most effective way possible.

Along with his personal definition of leadership, Coach Weis also had plenty of other advice for any future would-be leaders. He offered up tips such as “the best thing a leader can do is to surround himself with people better or more capable than yourself.” He also was a firm believer that a great leader always made mentoring his people a priority. Coach Weis ended his talk by advocating to always tell the truth and the importance of maintaining a professional working relationship with those you lead and not getting too “buddy-buddy” throughout the process.

CAPTAIN’S CUP
-MIDN 1/C SHAWN SMITH

The Captain’s Cup competition is an annual event with the existing Army and Air Force battalions on campus as a way to build camaraderie between battalions and within the NROTC unit. The event took place on April 12, 2014, in the University of Kansas Recreation Center and the Military Science Building. This year the Army did not join us due to a tight schedule but the event continued with the Navy and Marines in competition with the Air Force.

The events were as follows: indoor soccer, ultimate frisbee, wallball, basketball, pull ups, log sit ups, push ups, and a stretcher relay. The event was a great success, due to winning the trophy back from the Air Force after last years close rivalry, but more importantly the support and teamwork that went into each event that brought Midshipman closer by working towards a common goal.

The camaraderie with the Air Force battalion was also positive with each unit encouraging each other instead of resorting to overly competitive aggression. The trophy will remain in the NROTC learning resource center as a reminder to next years competitors to prepare early in order to keep the trophy in our possession through successful planning and training.

NEBRASKA DRILL MEET
-MDIN 4/C JOSHUA GATHRIGHT

On April 19, 2014 the KU NROTC Drill team, inspection team, Armed Color Guard, Rifle/Pistol Teams, and multiple endurance teams all went to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln campus for their annual NROTC Drill Meet. Every team competed in its own separate event, which had a certain weight within the final scoring and the Battalion with the most points at the end was declared the winner. Awards were also given out for the Drill, Shooting, and Endurance winners and KU brought home the Shooting plaque.
This competition encourages friendly competition among battalions around the country, build teamwork, unit morale, built friendships, and learn lessons that can be used in the fleet later on in our Navy/Marine Corps career. It also teaches the Midshipmen how to act around Midshipmen from other schools as well as keep in touch with friends from cruise and/or make new ones.

The KU Battalion practiced almost all year (starting in about September for some of the teams) for the meet and lots of time was spent preparing for it. When we went, we stayed in a hotel the night before and then showed up at UNL early the next morning ready to compete. Teamwork and coordination were musts, as many were involved in multiple events and the rest of us were cheering them on while they were competing. We were unable to win the overall competition but the Rifle/Pistol Team won their event through hours of practice, careful planning, and dedication.

OCS PREPARATION WEEKEND
-MIDN 2/C AUSTIN CATAUDELLA

The Marine-Options of the University of Kansas NROTC Battalion attended an OCS Prep Weekend in Des Moines, Iowa on 25-27 of April. This event was put on by Recruiting District Nine’s RS Des Moines at Camp Dodge. The staff from RS Des Moines was very receptive and helpful to us all. One Marine, in particular, stands out among the rest; SSgt Trickler. He is an infantry Marine who was in the Battle of Marjah in Afghanistan in 2010. His experience in combat, along with the other officers and enlisted personnel, was very valuable. He gave us the motivation we needed and reminded us that we are training to become leaders of men and women like him. He wants us to be the best for his Marines.

There were about forty candidates involved from several NROTC units and recruiting districts. Some of these candidates had attended OCS Juniors and were able to pass on some of their experience. The OCS graduates from last year assisted in grading several events and in teaching courses to the candidates. Some of the events of that weekend included SULE (Small Unit Leadership Evaluation), a Leadership Reaction Course, and a confidence course. The sergeant instructors provided leadership examples and helped encourage the candidates throughout the evolutions. The environment was very helpful and educational to those who are about to attend OCS because it allowed for certain stressors on them that could not normally be present on a college campus from day to day.

Since everyone was in a new and unfamiliar environment, they were able to learn things about themselves that would not have been possible otherwise. Personally, I was able to improve upon my ability to take control of an uncertain situation and not back down from that leadership role. Even when events turn sour, a good leader must take control and take responsibility for the success or failure of his or her unit. I personally found this experience to be extremely beneficial regarding our preparation for OCS.

AWARDS CEREMONY
-MIDN 4/C ANNE HENSLEMAN

The University of Kansas Naval ROTC conducted their Annual Awards Ceremony in the Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union on April 30th 2014. Family and friends of Midshipmen were invited to attend the significant affair. The battalion and active duty staff did an outstanding job in the preparations of the event, allowing it to be an enjoyable occasion.

The Battalion CO, MIDN 1/C Luis Berges and KU CO, Captain Schweizer, began the ceremony with an opening speech after which the actual awarding commenced. The awards went out to Midshipmen of all classes for various achievements they had accomplished throughout the academic year. We would like to recognize them as follows:

**AMERICAN LEGION AWARD FOR MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT - GENERAL MILITARY EXCELLENCE MEDAL**
- MIDN 4/C Nicholas Morrison
- MIDN 3/C Raymond Hower
- MIDN 2/C Stephen Cataudella
- OC Robert Stanton

**AMERICAN LEGION AWARD FOR MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT - SCHOLARSHIP MEDAL**
- MIDN 4/C Alexander Hines
- MIDN 3/C Bryan Neely
- MIDN 2/C Benjamin Allman
- OC Reston Bishop

**AMERICAN VETERAN’S ORGANIZATION (AMVETS)**
- MIDN 4/C Dalton Prins

**ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY (AUSN)**
- MIDN 2/C Melissa Ryan

**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS DISTINGUISHED MIDSHIPMAN GRADUATE**
- MIDN 1/C Luis Berges

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD**
- MIDN 4/C Anne Henselman

**DAUGHTERS OF THE FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS AWARD**
- MIDN 2/C Stephen Cataudella

**Dwight Dickman Memorial Award**
- Marine Officer’s Sword – Sgt Tyler Stimac
- Marine Award – MIDN 4/C Kieran Bateman
- Navy Award – MIDN 4/C Joshua Gathright

**GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 AWARD**
- MIDN 3/C Marley Fisher

**The Lt Christopher Taylor Memorial Award**
- MIDN 1/C Lucas Frickey

**Marine Corps Association Award**
- Sgt Tyler Stimac

**Military Officers Association Award (MOAA) National**
- MIDN 2/C Stephen Cataudella

**Military Officers Association Award (MOAA) Jayhawk Chapter - Major General Clay Comfort Award**
- MIDN 4/C Ryan McMahon

**Military Officers Association Award (MOAA) Sunflower Foundation Award**
- MIDN 4/C Nicholas Herren

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION AWARD**
- MIDN 2/C Stephen Cataudella and MIDN 2/C Andrew Powell

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART AWARD**
- MIDN 3/C Matthew Jeffers

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS AWARD**
- MIDN 4/C Ashley Shepherd
- MIDN 3/C Bryan Neely
- MIDN 2/C Jesi James

**National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Award**
- MIDN 4/C Mark Kersey

**National Defense Transportation Award**
- Sgt Tyler Stimac

**The National Sojourners Award For Americanism**
- MIDN 3/C Joshua Shope

**Naval Submarine League Frederick B. Warder Award For Outstanding Achievement**
- OC Kuran Bricker
Brigadier General John W. Simmons was the keynote speaker for the event, emphasizing the importance of the United States’ unique oath of office in which the Commissionees swear allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, rather than a monarchy, flag, or head of state. Brigadier General Simmons then provided each Commissionee with a copy of the constitution advising them to regularly review its content to remind them what they swore their oath to and its significance. He then swore in each new officer into their respective branches and stated how excited he was for the future generation of officers.

After the swearing in each new Second Lieutenant and Ensign was recognized on stage and their bars pinned on by loving family and friends. The event concluded with the singing of each branch’s service song and the University of Kansas Alma Mater. The guests and newly commissioned officers then gathered for a reception to meet and speak with the guests of honor.

With Congratulations, we recognize the following:

**Navy**
- Ensign Luis Berges
  Julesburg, CO- Naval Aviator
- Ensign Reston Bishop
  Springfield, MO- Undersea Warfare
- Ensign Kuran Bricker
  Overland Park, KS- Undersea Warfare
- Ensign Cameron Flora
  Sedgwick, KS- Naval Aviator
- Ensign Kyle Flynn
  Denver, CO- Naval Aviator
- Ensign Robert Stanton
  Wichita, KS- Undersea Warfare

**Marine**
- 2nd Lieutenant Lucas Frickey
  Clearwater, KS- The Basic School
- 2nd Lieutenant Edward T. Stimac
  Kansas City, KS - The Basic School

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**JOINT COMMISSIONING CEREMONY**
-ENS KURAN BRICKER

On May 19th, hundreds of friends and family gathered into the Ballroom of the Kansas Union at the University of Kansas to witness 34 Cadets and Midshipmen receive their Commissions into the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. For these Cadets and Midshipmen commissioning means the end to college life and the beginning of their military careers. Some will go on to become pilots and flight officers, others becoming communications and logistics officers, still others serving as infantry and other combat roles, including KU’s first female Army combat officer.

Brigadier General John W. Simmons was the keynote speaker for the event, emphasizing the importance of the United States’ unique oath of office in which the Commissionees swear allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, rather than a monarchy, flag, or head of state. Brigadier General Simmons then provided each Commissionee with a copy of the constitution advising them to regularly review its content to remind them what they swore their oath to and its significance. He then swore in each new officer into their respective branches and stated how excited he was for the future generation of officers.

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**PEGLEGG NROTC STAFF**

**CAPTAIN DAVID SCHWEIZER, USN**

**COMMANDING OFFICER AND CHIEF EDITOR**

**FALL SEMESTER:**
- MIDN 3/C NICOLE SPECKIN
  PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

**MIDN 3/C STEPHEN WALKER**

**ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

**SPRING SEMESTER:**
- MIDN 3/C RAYMOND HOWER
  PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

**MIDN 1/C LUCAS FRICKEY**

**ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**
The NROTC Class of 1974 is planning a reunion during Homecoming weekend, (Sept 26-28th). Schedule of events is still being finalized, but anticipated to include an MSB tour on Friday afternoon and pregame tailgate on Saturday.

Invitation is extended to all Alumni from all classes. Please contact the Unit for more information!

We would love to hear from our Alumni! Would you prefer electronic delivery of the Pegleg? Please contact us at nrotc@ku.edu for comments, questions or suggestions.

Interested in contributing a gift to the Navy ROTC Unit? Please consider giving to the Dwight G. Rickman Naval Scholarship Fund. Your tax deductible contribution to the endowment fund shall be used to provide scholarships for deserving students in the Naval ROTC program.

Donations can be made online at: www.kuendowment.org/rotc_navalaward

Thank you for your continued support!