

The Schooner

Summer 2011 Edition

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Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science

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Executive Officer and Associate Professor of Naval Science

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MIDN 1/C Kanisha Holiday

Rice Company Staff

Commanding Officer

MIDN 1/C Patrick Anderson

Executive Officer

GySgt Randy Gross

Operations Officer

MIDN 1/C Grant Parks

Admin Officer

MIDN 2/C Floyd Lewis

Captain's Corner

*Captain William Fitzgerald,
Commanding Officer and
Professor of Naval Science*



As the new Commanding Officer of the NROTC Houston Consortium, I want to welcome back all our Midshipmen, MECEPs and Officer Candidates (OCs) to your next academic year. You are all one step closer to being commissioned officers in the Navy or Marine Corps. I received glowing reports on how summer training went and from talking to many of you, I can tell you all enjoyed summer cruises both for the professional development and for getting to see other parts of the country – and for some the world.

Freshman Orientation,

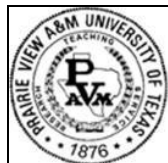
conducted at Camp Bullis in San Antonio this past August, was a huge success. The Midshipmen staff who ran Orientation, led by Midshipman Anderson and Midshipman Garza, did a phenomenal job providing initial indoctrination. I was pleased with the motivation, determination and teamwork I observed from the new freshman – now our Fourth Class Midshipmen. Even though Freshman Orientation was only five days, the beginning of their transformation from high school graduate to Fourth Class Midshipman was clearly evident. As I spoke with some parents waiting to pick up their son or daughter at the end, it was also clear to them that change was occurring.

At the back of *The Schooner*, you will see my Mission/Vision statement and priorities. As the Commanding Officer, I need to set the tone on how we – as an organization – will approach our mission. The Consortium staff is knowledgeable, professional and eager to assist. Please take a moment to read my Mission/Vision statement.

Rice



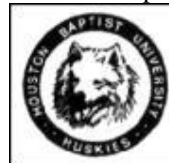
Prairie View A&M



University of Houston



Houston Baptist



Texas Southern



When I say the staff of the Houston Consortium exists for you – Midshipmen, MECEPs and OCs – I mean that. We are here to provide you with the resources to help you succeed...and success is defined as commissioning in the Navy or Marine Corps. While the staff stands ready to support you in any way we can, the onus remains on you to work hard, get good grades, excel in your Naval Science courses, stay in shape, and be involved in the Unit.

This is an exciting time in Navy and Marine Corps. The technology advances are tremendous. The quality of the officer corps and enlisted ranks has never been higher. Right now, it is the hardest time to get into the military and the hardest to stay in. You all will have to demonstrate *sustained superior performance* in order to continue to progress in your careers.

I know you are up for the challenge and it all starts with getting good grades -- hit the books hard from the start. It is always easier to let up a bit than it is to dig yourself out of an academic hole. If you find yourself in trouble, get help soon. Let your advisor know early. Take action immediately to correct.

I am excited to be the new Commanding Officer and lead the finest NROTC Unit in the country!

Go Navy and Semper Fi!

Wm. A. Fitzgerald
CAPT USN

Freshmen Orientation

MIDN 3/C Verna Macapagal



This summer we welcomed over thirty freshmen Midshipmen to the NROTC Houston Consortium. The new Midshipmen were indoctrinated at Camp Bullis in San Antonio, Texas from 8-13 August 2011. They were introduced to a variety of general military training topics including basic drill movements, certified third class swim qualification, an Initial Physical Readiness Test, classroom lectures and leadership activities. A Midshipman favorite was the Leadership Reaction Course which challenged one's ability to work in teams to accomplish critical tasks in a specific timeframe.

Senior Midshipmen and Marines from NROTC Houston Consortium assisted, led, and mentored our newest freshmen. They spent hours guiding new Midshipmen in subjects including uniform regulations and wear, conduct and discipline, individual grooming standards, and other important classes.

On 13 August, after five days of the San Antonio heat and humidity, blisters on their

feet and early reveille calls, the final hurdle was a uniform inspection and oath of office. After being sworn-in, the thirty promising Midshipmen became the newest members of the NROTC Houston Consortium. This year's orientation was a great success on every level. All Midshipmen, both freshmen and upperclassmen, developed knowledge and a bond to assist them in their quest for commissions in the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps. Welcome to NROTC Houston Consortium!

CORTRAMID West 2011

MIDN 3/C Patrick Jacobsen



Sitting on a bus in San Diego surrounded by other third class Midshipmen on the way to summer training, I thought to myself, "I have no idea what is really in store for me." The looks on the faces of other Midshipmen led me to believe they had similar feelings. Little did we realize we were about to embark on one of the greatest experiences of our lives. CORTRAMID West 2011 had begun.

Upon our arrival to Naval Base San Diego, we were pleasantly surprised with the barracks provided for us and it was a good sign of things to come. The officers gave us briefs telling us exactly what to expect. Each week was designated for us to learn about a certain naval community: one week for aviation, one week for submarines, one week for surface warfare and one week for the Marine Corps. We were divided into companies, platoons, and squads, given positions (fire team leader, squad leader, etc), and given a watch bill schedule. Then finally, our training commenced.

For me and a few other Rice Midshipmen, Aviation week came first. This week was almost entirely based around the opportunity to co-pilot and take the stick in a T-34. However, this involved a lot more than one would expect. There was dive training, swim qualifications, pressure chambers, hypoxia briefs, and above all, a lot of anticipation. It was all worth it because for 30 glorious minutes, we were able to take to the skies.

Following our aviation exposure, our company traveled to Camp Pendleton for Marine week and although it was long, strenuous and frustrating at times, it was absolutely worth it. From pugil stick training, live fire exercises, and IED courses, to real hands-on experience with Marine

equipment and vehicles, it surely was a week to remember.

Next came surface warfare week. Though some Midshipmen didn't expect it, we found it to be just as interesting and enthralling as Marine week. In fact, we each got to fire a .50 caliber gun off of the side of the USS PELELIU (LHA-5) on which our company went underway. Finally, we made our way to USS KENTUCKY, a trident submarine, off the coast of San Clemente Island. This was, in the opinion of many Midshipmen, the best week by far. We submerged to depths of 600 feet, got to climb in the torpedo tubes, performed high angle dives and climbs, and were given a brief on the missions and capabilities of US submarines.

With a newfound sense of leadership, knowledge, and willingness to serve in the fleet someday, the future officers who attended CORTRAMID West 2011 made their way back home, primed to tell friends and family of their experiences with the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



Submerged

MIDN 2/C Floyd Lewis



Summer cruise was a very enjoyable experience as I spent time aboard USS HARTFORD, a fast attack submarine. Though there was a fair amount of downtime, I knew this was deceiving because of the hard work and long hours I observed being put in by the junior officers. I was able to apply the knowledge I obtained in Naval Science class, especially the navigation with the different vectors and magnitudes on the submarine. Now, I see why it is extremely vital to pay close attention in class. Lastly, I liked the close relationships that everyone had with one another. The enlisted crew were not afraid to talk to officers and vice versa. It was almost like everyone on the ship were "brothers" in a large family.

Under the Sea

MIDN 2/C Louis Pfeil

This summer I was privileged with the opportunity of attending my Second Class cruise in San Diego, California aboard the USS ASHEVILLE (SSN-758), a nuclear powered Los Angeles class fast attack

submarine. Unfortunately upon arrival, the crew was immersed in preparation for an upcoming Operational Reactor Safeguard Examination (ORSE) inspection, an especially grueling inspection. ASHEVILLE'S crew was given ten days to prepare, and consequently, any existing Midshipman operations were delayed a week.

Incapable of conducting any Midshipman operations aboard ASHEVILLE for the first week, nine Midshipmen from across the country and I were able to participate in training simulators at Point Loma submarine base in San Diego. These included a damage control "wet" trainer that simulated flooding in submarine engineering space, and a "dive" motion-simulator where the sensation of different angles and speeds during submarine dives or maneuvers could be imitated. Aside from the trainers, we were given ample time to discover and tour many of the sights of San Diego.

After a successful inspection, ASHEVILLE was able to depart Point Loma for a six-day underway period off the coast of southern California. During this time, I was able to experience life on the submarine with an emphasis on the enlisted man's daily routine. With my running mate, I was introduced to the watch bill and the process of standing watches. During free time, I was free to roam the boat learning about different engineering,

navigation, weapon, reactor, sonar, and control systems. Throughout our "mini-deployment," I was able to observe daily submarine evolutions including surfacing, diving, navigation, and maintenance. The highlights of my time at sea included the famous "angles and dangles" where the submarine performed high speed maneuvers, dives, and rises at steep angles, and a seventy-two hour time period where we performed "war games" with the USS SAN FRANCISCO testing weapons, counter measures, maneuvers, and sonar systems. I undoubtedly enjoyed my 2/C cruise, a very insightful and educational experience. I look forward to next summer and anticipate my hopeful service in the submarine force.



Overseas on USS CHUNG- HOON (DDG-93)

MIDN 1/C Chelsea Cranford



Courtesy USS CHUNG-HOON (DDG-93)

Every summer, Midshipmen are presented the opportunity of going on a "cruise" which is generally a month of training aboard a ship or with a squadron. For my last Midshipman cruise, I had the fortunate opportunity to spend time with the crew of the USS CHUNG-HOON (DDG 93) along with MIDN 1/C Garza and 1/C Parks from the Houston Consortium. We had a unique experience cruising the South China Sea. We met the ship in Puerto Princessa, Philippines. While in the Philippines, we gave tours of the ship to the local Filipinos and we had a fun "sports day" with the Filipino Navy. We played soccer, basketball, and had a tug-of-war competition. Overall it was a great bonding experience. We also had time to go on a tour of the beautiful underground river in Palawan.

Nearing the end of our 20 day cruise with CHUNG-HOON, we anchored off the coast of Da Nang, Vietnam. I felt very privileged to be aboard the ship for this port stop.

While there, the CHUNG-HOON had skill exchanges with the Vietnam People's Navy. On liberty, or free-time, we went on a tour of Mỹ Sơn, an abandoned Hindu religious site established between the 4th and 14th century by the Kings of Champa. I was also lucky enough to attend mass at the cathedral in Da Nang where the CHUNG-HOON's Executive Officer was asked to be a part of the mass as a reader!

My Time With USS CHAFEE (DDG-90)

MIDN 2/C Ryan Fauci



On July 29, 2011, I set off for my Second Class cruise. Not knowing what to expect as I sat in the USO at Los Angeles International Airport, I thought of all the things I would be doing and all the things that could go wrong. I reported aboard USS CHAFEE (DDG-90) later that day in the middle of Fleet Week. The moment we got out of the van, I knew this cruise would be different.

Thousands of civilians waiting to tour the ship rushed me and the other Midshipmen wanting to take pictures, shake our hand, and say "thank you."

This made me proud to be a part of the United States Navy.

For the first three days, we were given liberty in Los Angeles to see the local sights. On the third day, we headed back to the ship to depart for another Fleet Week in Seattle. During the three days it took to arrive, my running mate, DC2 Calliste, showed me the days of an enlisted Sailor. We stood watch and worked in the general workshop for the majority of the day. Once in Seattle, I was given liberty for five days where I spent that time visiting the local attractions.

With another Fleet Week under my belt, we left Seattle to begin our daily routine. We performed General Quarters drills where we simulated the ship was attacked. I was assigned to Repair Locker Three as a messenger; it was really exciting. I was also given the opportunity to stand watch as a Conning Officer and given complete control of the ship. I had to make decisions about when to turn and to keep the ship on course. I also participated in line handling during the Underway Replenishment (UNREP) off the coast of Hawaii. When we arrived in Hawaii after seven days underway, we were again given liberty. Each day in Hawaii really made me appreciate what the men and women do every day in the fleet. I really feel like I learned a lot from this experience and can't wait to get to the fleet in a few years.

Going to the Mountains

MIDN 2/C Steven Hunter



This summer, three Marine Option Midshipman from the Prairie View NROTC Unit, took a trip to Humboldt-Toiyabe National Park, located two hours west of Reno, Nevada. The national forest spans 6.3 million acres with the Sierra Nevada mountain range to the east and the Spring Mountains to the south. Within a non-descript valley lies the U.S. Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center that has operated since the 1950's. The center trains Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airman in tactics and principles for operations in mountainous, high altitude, and cold weather environments.

During the 10 day package, the Midshipmen received training in basic wilderness survival as well as reinforcing concepts of leadership and esprit de corps. The Midshipmen lived and learned in the field at altitudes up to 9,000ft during seven of the 10 days there. Midshipmen received instruction and mentoring from a staff of highly experienced Marine Corps Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

Among the training staff was NROTC Houston Consortium's Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Lockhart. He provided overall command and insights into the Marine Corps for all 259 Marine options in attendance. His staff also provided valuable insight into what is expected of each Marine Officer and the huge responsibility of command.

The Midshipmen spent several days learning different procedures to starting fires, filtering water, climbing rock faces, rappelling from cliffs, crossing large streams, building temporary shelters, and practicing small unit leadership skills. Through all the instruction, the Midshipmen learned to lead their peers in preparation for their senior summer evolution of Officer Candidate School (OCS).

Advanced Honors

LT James Kepper



MIDN 1/C Grant Parks was nominated by the Rice University faculty committee to compete nationally for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. He will be competing against peers from his home state of Connecticut

for one of two finalist positions. If selected for either program, he will attend Oxford University tuition-free and pursue a two year Masters in International Relations. He hopes to research the effects China's economic and political rise will have on Western, particularly America, national security policy. This research would serve as the groundwork for an eventual doctoral dissertation and policy paper. He hopes one day to serve at the highest levels of the American national security establishment.

9/11 Fun Run

MIDN 3/C Carol Nordman



This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the United States. Ten years ago, hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania, thus beginning a long and ongoing conflict with several Middle Eastern terror organizations.

NROTC Houston Consortium honored the 10th Anniversary by participating in Houston's first Annual 9/11 Heroes Run, sponsored by Travis Manion Foundation.

Midshipmen and Staff gathered at Ellington Airfield to run with service members, veterans and civilians from all over the country, as well as Colonel Manion, father of Travis. In addition to Marines, Sailors and Soldiers, Houston police officers, firemen, SWAT Team members, State Troopers, Recruiters, Special Forces, and a spirited Army General participated in the run.

Before the race began, the NROTC Houston Consortium attended the opening ceremony. Guest speakers included Houston's Mayor Annise Parker, Colonel Thomas Manion, USMCR (Ret) and US Army Major General J.J. Wells. As the opening ceremonies came to a close, several Consortium Marines were fortunate to meet a veteran Marine pilot from WWII.

The race began with a boom—literally, as the starter pistol was replaced by an Army artillery piece. Without a doubt, the Houston Consortium was the loudest and proudest on the 5K course around the airfield. The Consortium broke up into several companies led by our Consortium Staff, forming a long stretch of yellow and green shirted Midshipmen. Each company continuously called rhythmic and spirited cadences at the top of their lungs. Many Midshipmen and MECEPs were eager to call out cadence -- the companies were never quiet for the entire 40 minutes. Several highly motivated members even sprinted around companies carrying our Consortium

guidons high in the air, garnering cheers and whoops from surrounding runners.

Our Consortium's hard work was well recognized. After a strong finish by all companies, Army Major General Wells congratulated the companies on their spirited run and thanked them deeply for participating.

The day did not end with the conclusion of the race. Afterwards, all participants were welcome to free food, drinks and a chance to explore some of the finest technology in America's fighting forces. One could climb aboard several Marine fighter jets and helicopters, scale a rock wall with the U.S. Army, sit in a Navy SEAL Special Force vehicle and pose with its weapons, or shake the hand of the Coast Guard's larger-than-life mascot. The Houston SWAT team brought their equipment, Houston Police K-9 units walked through the crowd with their highly-trained dogs, and Houston Fireman rode bikes through the crowd, stopping and chatting with anyone and everyone. Several other civilian organizations, including a foundation for PTSD, motorcycle clubs, a drums and pipes corps, and several medical groups were also present at the events. One could even sign up with Houston Consortium's NROTC program!

Through a long morning of running and motivating, the Houston Consortium certainly

made Houston's first Heroes Run a memorable run.

Spring Awards

LCDR Eric Kessler

To recognize our Midshipmen on their academic, drill and physical fitness achievements throughout the school year, NROTC Houston Consortium awards deserving Midshipmen a certificate and ribbon for their accomplishments. Midshipmen receive academic awards based on their Grade Point Average (GPA): Academic Excellence GPA 3.75 to 4.0 and Academic Achievement GPA 3.5 to 3.75. A physical fitness award is presented to Midshipmen who score Outstanding on the Navy PRT or 285 or higher on the Marine PFT. Congratulations to the following Midshipmen for their achievements!

New addition

LCDR Eric Kessler

NROTC Houston Consortium proudly welcomes the newest member into our family. John David Fite was born at 0737 on 16 September 2011 to LT Jason and Sarah Fite. John David and Sarah are healthy and doing well. Congratulations!

Midshipmen Awards

Academic Excellence

Maela Bellamy
Veronica Galvan
Randy Gross
Garrett Horn
Samantha Stepp
Gina Threlkeld
Antoine Wilson

Academic Achievement

Christopher Attaway
Chelsea Cranford
Emily Elmore
Patrick Jacobson
Matthew Krusen
Sherman Messer
Grant Parks
Louis Pfeil
Steven Smitherman
Blake Wallace

Physical Fitness

Patrick Anderson
Trevor Coleman
Emily Garcia
Mollie Garza
Floyd Lewis
Verna Macapagal

Congratulations!!

NROTC Houston Consortium

Commanding Officer's

Mission... Vision...Priorities

*“Preparing the next
generation of Navy and
Marine Corps
Officers”*

MISSION

NROTC Houston Consortium is a dedicated team of Navy, Marine Corps, and Civilian professionals at both Rice and Prairie View A&M Universities working together in a professional and collaborative environment to teach, train, mentor and prepare our Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically to become officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

VISION

We are viewed as the model NROTC Consortium for being dedicated to providing the best quality of service and quality of life possible for our Midshipmen, as well as our civilian and military work force. We will accomplish this

balance through unity of effort, teamwork, cooperation, and collaboration between the Rice University (and cross town affiliate schools) and Prairie View A&M University. Additionally:

- We will commission the highest caliber Navy and Marine Corps Officers ready to lead and serve.
- We will preserve a positive image of the Navy and Marine Corps in Houston and wherever we travel – both on and off duty.
- We will promote the Naval Service at local high schools and actively recruit quality candidates for service in the Navy and Marine Corps.
- We will meet or exceed our quotas for the nuclear service.

PRIORITIES

1. Possess the highest standards in everything we say and do.
2. A workplace free from discrimination and harassment as our foundation
3. A commitment to embrace the diversity of our units
4. Uphold the highest standards in our Midshipmen, provide them the assistance to succeed, and mentor them and their families for the transition into the military life.

5. Provide the best possible support and quality of life to the military, civilian staff, and their families of NROTC Houston Consortium.
6. Operate the Rice and Prairie View A&M University units in a collaborative environment.
7. Be a good neighbor with our university hosts and sister service ROTC units.

OUR PLEDGE

To the Midshipmen assigned to the NROTC Houston Consortium:

- We will be helpful, mentoring, and professional at all times.
- We will prepare you to become Navy or Marine Corps Officers.

In return, we expect you as Midshipmen to be actively engaged in the learning of your future leadership roles and responsibilities as Navy and Marine Corps Officers



Commanding Officer
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