

VUNROTC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence



Over the course of the semester, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Midshipman Commanding Officer of the Vanderbilt NROTC Battalion. During this time, I have worked with who I believe to be some of the most exceptional individuals at Vanderbilt, Belmont, and TSU. Though everything did not always go as planned, everyone has worked together to make the best of every situation and take with them valuable leadership lessons. As the semester comes to a close, we move into a very exciting summer. This will consist of summer training for the younger midshipmen, offering valuable insight into their future lives in the fleet and the communities they wish to serve. For the 1/C midshipmen, this represents the realization of the ultimate goal of NROTC, graduation and commissioning. I am certain that the hard work the active duty staff and other midshipmen put into training the 1/C will pay dividends as they transition into this new chapter in their lives. I look forward to seeing how the new midshipmen staff will improve the Battalion further moving into the next year, and am extremely grateful I got the opportunity to lead.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 1/C Ryan Hunt
Battalion Commanding Officer

The nation that will insist on drawing a broad line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools and its thinking done by cowards.

- LT Gen. Sir William Francis Butler

Navy vs. Army Soccer Game

The Battalion executed and won its first ever soccer game against Vanderbilt's Army ROTC unit this March, with Midshipman 2/C Pranav Kumar scoring the only goal on the field.



ENS CHILES COMMISSIONING

VUNROTC recently sent its newest Ensign to the fleet. This December, ENS Loren Chiles graduated Vanderbilt University with a Bachelors of Arts in Physics, and commissioned as designator 1390 - student naval aviator. He has since reported to flight school in Pensacola to begin his training. We wish ENS Chiles the best of luck in his career, and hope to see him back in Nashville soon!



Midshipmen conduct the Spring semester company drill competition. The Battalion receives drill instruction every semester to ensure all midshipmen are adequately prepared for service in the fleet.



This Semester's Events

The Ragnar Relay

Eleven midshipmen and our Marine Officer Instructor, Captain Vickers, participated in the Ragnar relay between Chattanooga and Nashville between 23-24 March. This 197-mile race had the midshipmen up all night. The participants traded off the baton as they kept up with the team via van.



Their efforts paid off – VUNROTC placed third out of 233 teams, despite starting at the very latest time.

Battalion Field Exercise



A midshipman aims his rifle during the Battalion field exercise executed in April.

JROTC Drill Meet

The Battalion hosted its annual Junior ROTC drill meet this April, with nine schools attending to compete for the gold. Midshipmen graded events such as platoon inspections, team exhibition (armed and unarmed), and color guard, alongside the AMOI, Staff Sergeant William Michener.



Midshipmen also served as liaisons to schools, both ensuring smooth execution of the drill meet and answering any questions about VUNROTC and college life for JROTC Cadets.

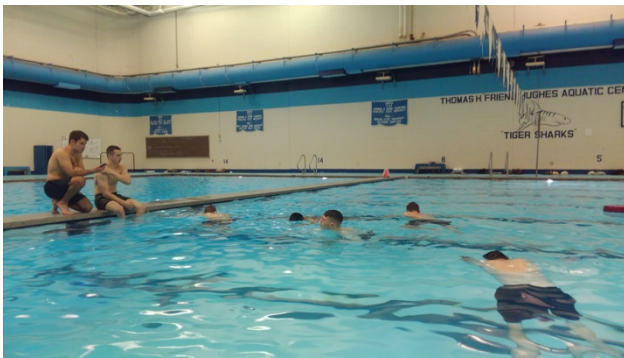


Overall, the Battalion successfully executed a large event that increased exposure of JROTC cadets to the VUNROTC program, and had a lot of fun in the process!

This Semester's Events

Swim Qualifications

It's like they always say – if you're swimming in the Navy, something has gone terribly wrong! Nevertheless, midshipmen participated in swim qualifications at the Tennessee State University pool this semester, ensuring they meet the commissioning requirement for physical readiness. All commissioned officers in the Department of the Navy are required to learn water survival techniques, such as the dead man's float and a high jump off of a diving board.



Community Service

The Battalion performed community service this Spring with Preston Taylor Ministries at Saint Andrew's Calvin House. Midshipmen played basketball, capture the flag, and other sports with this after school program for underprivileged children in Nashville. It was a joy to work with the kids! Pictured below is Midshipman 3/C Dotson receiving a basketball lesson from one of the program participants.



Spotlight: Midshipman 3/C Caroline Finn

Midshipman Finn is a Russian Language & Political Science double major with a minor in Spanish. She is currently undecided in her service selection but is leaning towards intelligence. This summer Midshipman Finn will participate in Project Global Officer, a Department of Defense initiative to create an educated and worldly officer corp. She will be studying in Daugavplis, Latvia.

Looking Forward

MIDSHIPMEN TO BE COMISSIONED

On May 11, six members of the class of 2018 will be commissioned into the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Each has undergone four years of training, taking them from the skies over Key West, to submarines and surface ships in the Mediterranean, to Officer Candidate School in Quantico. They are as follows:

- ENS Shane A. Green, Grass Valley, CA, Nurse Corps – San Diego Naval Hospital
- ENS Ryan C. Hunt, Fort Worth, TX, Surface Warfare – USS Halsey, DDG 97
- ENS Gordon S. Kiesling, New Canaan, CT, Aviation – NAS Pensacola
- ENS Ryan W. Shea, Alpharetta, GA, Aviation – NAS Pensacola
- 2ndLt Ryan B. Smith, Boiling Springs, SC, USMC – The Basic School
- 2ndLt Colburn J. Wagner, St. Louis, MO, USMC – The Basic School

VUNROTC wishes them the best of luck as they embark on careers as US Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Hooyah!

New Battalion Staff Receive Command

At the Battalion's annual Pass in Review ceremony held on April 19th, BNCO 1/C Ryan Hunt handed over command to Midshipman 2/C Colin Lee, a Marine option attending TSU. With him came a fresh new Battalion staff, ready to take on the challenges of next year, including executing a new student orientation for a huge incoming class of Vanderbilt, TSU, and Belmont freshmen.

Commanding Officer: MIDN 1/C Lee
 Executive Officer: MIDN 1/C Riordan
 Master Chief Petty Officer: MIDN 1/C Cockerham
 Operations Officer: MIDN 1/C Kumar
 Adjutant: MIDN 1/C Samaroo
 Supply Officer: MIDN 2/C Dotson
 Alpha Company Commander: MIDN 1/C Richardson
 Alpha Chief: MIDN 2/C Finn
 Bravo Company Commander: MIDN 2/C Valerius
 Bravo Chief: MIDN 2/C Dorrough

