During the Spring 2019 semester, I have held the honor of serving as the Battalion Commander of Vanderbilt Naval ROTC. In my short time in that billet, I have been continuously impressed with the caliber of MIDN present in our unit from Belmont, Tennessee State University, and Vanderbilt. Our Battalion has shown continuous and steady growth since my arrival as a 4/C MIDN four years. We have grown mentally, morally, and physically. As always we continue to progress and our training will continue into this summer. The 4/C MIDN will be heading to CORTRAMID, where they will see a diverse display of Navy and Marine Corps communities. The 3/C and 2/C will be going on their Enlisted and Officer cruises where they will spend time with a community they are interested in. Those 2/C fortunate enough to pursue the title of Marine will have the opportunity to earn it this summer at Officer Candidate School. Finally, the 1/C will be realizing the goals they have been working towards for four years now: graduation and commission. I feel honored and privileged to see the growth of every MIDN who is in the program now and look forward to their further development. There is little doubt that the efforts of the active duty staff will continue to grow the MIDN and maintain the high level of standard that Vanderbilt NROTC has always kept. Thank You to the Alumni for your continue support in our mission of developing future Navy and Marine Corps officers!

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 1/C Pranav Kumar
Battalion Commander

Leadership is a gift. It is given by those who follow. You have to be worthy of it.

- General Mark Welsh
VUNROTC focused on three key aspects this semester: The Complete MIDN, Leadership Starts Now, and Camaraderie. These guided many of the activities this semester as MIDN focused heavily on being well rounded academically, as leaders, socially, morally, and physically. Each commander brings with them a new set of guiding principles. I was impressed by our growth this semester!

The 3 Tenets for Spring 19

The ROTC Olympics were held for the first time this semester as a competition between Air Force ROTC, Army ROTC, and Navy ROTC. VUNROTC was the ultimate victors on the day.

Honor Company
Every spring the Battalion holds a drill competition with both companies that is a large part of Honor Company. This semester, Alpha led by MIDN Dorrough, were the victors in the drill competition and Honor Company. Captain May awards the Honor Company Banner at Spring Change of Command.
This Semester’s Events

Battalion Field Exercise
Our Annual Field Exercise was heavily focused on getting MIDN 2/C Dotson and MIDN 2/C Wilson confident before OCS. Memphis NROTC joined us in a collaborative event that allowed both units to develop and conduct small unit leadership evaluations, a nine mile hike, night land navigation, and much more. For many, the highlight was the paintball wars conducted amid dense forest as part of our small unit missions. We look forward to joining Memphis next year for their FEX!

JROTC Drill Meet
The Battalion hosted its annual Junior ROTC drill meet this April, with ten schools attending to compete and execute before Nationals. MIDN graded events such as platoon inspections, armed and unarmed basic, armed exhibition, and color guard. They were led by the AMOI, Gunnery Sergeant William Michener.

MIDN also helped as safety observers during the physical training competition. It consisted of burpees, squats, push-ups, buddy drags, and fireman carries. The JROTC cadets worked hard on the drill field and even harder at PT!

Opportunities Abound
The Midshipmen had the opportunity to meet and learn from a Naval Aviator who is a graduate of VUNROTC. Even on a Saturday morning, the MIDN are motivated!

All members of the Battalion were actively involved as either judgers, liaisons, runners, or satellites. Truly an all hands effort!
This Semester’s Events

Morale, Wellness and Recreation

It’s not all field exercises and classes, keeping morale high is a key part of our mission! This semester we had a large turnout for Ice Skating, Volleyball and Top Gun, Frisbee and Subs, and Avengers: Endgame. These events always provide a welcome relief from school and offer us the opportunity to have some fun with our fellow MIDN.

Community Service

The Battalion performed community service this Spring at the Veterans Hospital near Vanderbilt’s Campus. Midshipmen spent time with patients across all floors of the hospital and helped hospital staff. It was a gift to hear from those who had gone before, and they truly appreciated our visit. We were joined by Tullahoma JROTC, who also joined us for a Fartlek the next morning. We look forward to partnering with the VA hospital again in the near future!

Spotlight: Midshipman 1/C Brooke Riordan

Midshipman Riordan is a nursing major at Belmont University. She has delayed her commission in order to attend Vanderbilt Nursing School where she will obtain her Masters as a Nurse Practitioner. This summer Midshipman Riordan will work as a Pediatric Nurse before beginning her graduate studies in August. She will be commissioned Summer of 2020.
Looking Forward

MIDSHIPMEN TO BE COMMISSIONED

On May 10, five members of the class of 2019 will be commissioned into the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Each has undergone four years of training, taking them from the skies over the United States, to submarines and surface ships all the way to Australia, to Officer Candidate School in Quantico. They are as follows:

- ENS Alyia M. Beason, Cincinnati, OH, Surface Warfare – USS Greenbay, LPD 20
- 2nd Lt Pranav Kumar, Austin, TX, USMC – The Basic School
- 2nd Lt Colin W. Lee, Temecula, CA, USMC – The Basic School
- 2nd Lt Cole T. Samaroo, Syosset, NY, USMC – The Basic School
- ENS Joshua Stafford, Watson, LA, Submarine – Nuclear Power School

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

New Battalion Staff Receive Command

At the Battalion’s annual Change of Command ceremony held on April 19th, Midshipman 1/C Pranav Kumar handed over command to Midshipman 2/C Harrison Wilson, a Marine option. With him came a fresh new Battalion staff, ready to take on the challenges of next year. Every semester brings a new set of faces for battalion leadership and with it a new perspective.

Battalion Commander: MIDN 1/C Wilson
Executive Officer: MIDN 1/C Dorrough
Master Chief Petty Officer: MIDN 1/C Walding
Operations Officer: MIDN 1/C Finn
Adjutant: MIDN 1/C Valerius
Supply Officer: MIDN 2/C Lareau
Alpha Company Commander: MIDN 2/C Gilliam
Alpha Chief: MIDN 2/C Herrera
Bravo Company Commander: MIDN 2/C Misch
Bravo Chief: SSgt Proctor