



World's Greatest Naval Battalion (WGNB) Newsletter

April 2016

USS Nevada Visit

Often during drill periods, the Midshipmen are provided the opportunity to learn about the experiences and exploits of current leaders in the Naval fleet. Recently, the crew of the USS Nevada (SSBN-733) visited the WGNB to impart their wisdom on the Midshipman. Commander Gene Severtson, USN, spoke about his time as a commanding officer and the great opportunities the Submarine Community has provided him. In addition, Master Chief Chad Beatty, USN, shared his thoughts on leadership, emphasizing heavily on respect, integrity, and perseverance. Lastly, a Junior Officer talked of his experiences aboard his first boat, and what a midshipman should expect should they choose to be a submarine officer. MIDN 1/C Lanzona reflected saying that, "a big reason why I am commissioning as a Nuclear Officer is because the USS Nebraska visited when I was a 4/c." The experience was invaluable to the Midshipmen and offered a glimpse into the life and professional environment of submariners.



The Midshipmen listen as CDR Severtson briefs them on the Silent Service (Above).

MWR Event

With the ever surmounting stress and fatigue of the semester, it pays greatly to occasionally reward the hard work and dedication of your peers and subordinates. At the WGNB, the term "MWR Drill" has become synonymous with a relaxing change of pace. At the latest MWR Drill, Alpha and Bravo company celebrated the approach of Spring Break with burgers at Joe's Brewery, and Charlie Company had a cookout hosted by MIDN 3/C Boggs. MIDN 3/C Gregson was quoted saying: "MWR events are a good way to build morale and esprit de corps when midshipmen are feeling overwhelmed from classes, NROTC, and many other stressors. For this semester's event, Charlie Company grilled out and played bags during the usual drill period. It was a good way to catch up with other midshipmen, find out what's going on in their lives, and generally connect with them on aspects outside of the usual NROTC topics." Clearly the value of MWR events can never be overstated, and the WGNB takes full advantage of these motivating events whenever possible.



The Midshipman participants of Mini MOP await the end of a rewarding day (Above).

Mini MOP FEX

For years, the WGNB's Midshipman Orientation Program (MOP) has served as an invaluable training tool for both the Midshipman Candidates and the current Midshipman of the WGNB. On 3 April, the Company and Training Staff for the upcoming MOP put together a day long training evolution for Midshipman who joined the unit during the school year and missed the opportunity to participate in the full MOP. Spearheaded by the MOP 2016 TRAINO, MIDN 3/C Perello, the entire event ran smoothly and successfully. The day included swim qualifications, Close Order Drill instruction, informative briefs on Battalion affairs and professionalism, an extended PT evolution, and shooting at the range. Everyone involved, both participants and staff, put forth a great effort that led to an event which facilitated the mental, moral, and physical growth of Midshipmen. MIDN 3/C Perello put in many hours of hard work to get this event off the ground and he reflected on the event, saying that, "MINI MOP was a tremendous success for all parties involved. It not only advanced the development of newer midshipman, but also gave both Company and Training Staff an opportunity to get tangible experience in what they will ultimately experience in the summer of 2016. New Midshipman were able to receive five briefs on selected topics such as uniform wear, naval correspondence, and customs and courtesies. In addition, they received five hours of Close Order Drill, and because of impressive execution by Training Staff, were able to learn every movement future candidates will learn in one week, in only one day. To top it all off, they participated in Swim Qualifications, Range Day, and a challenging Physical Training Session. Overall, the Battalion's first ever MINI MOP was successful, and will seemingly become a tradition of MOP staff for years to come." With this training experience completed, the Company Staff is on track to plan a very successful MOP this upcoming summer.

WGNB Intramurals

The first half of the semester presented fierce competition to the intramural teams of the WGNB. The dodgeball team had a successful season, going undefeated into the playoffs. MIDN 3/C Villafuerte led the dodgeball team during their weekly games. The basketball team, led by MIDN 3/C Thoren, had an impressive winning season, steamrolling their way to the playoffs. Indoor soccer had a tough season but improved greatly throughout due to the dedication and leadership of MIDN 3/C Pepin and MIDN 3/C Gregson. MIDN 3/C Pepin says that, "intramural soccer is a fun and competitive team that offers a unique opportunity for Midshipmen to get to know each other outside of mandatory Battalion events." The intramurals during the latter half of the semester will include volleyball, softball, and outdoor soccer.



The basketball team ready for action for their playoff game (Above). MIDN 2/C Gallagher prepares the Midshipmen at Mini MOP for Close Order Drill Instruction (Below).

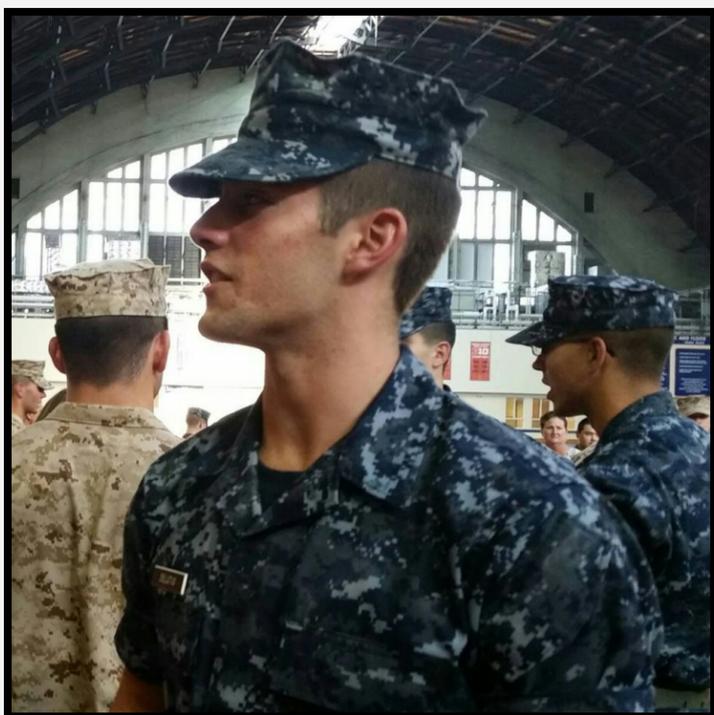


MIDN 3/C Perello (Middle) leads the final gruelling PT session at the close of Mini MOP.

National Scholarship Recipients

It is every Midshipman's goal to become a commissioned officer in the US Navy, and this past month, two additional members of the WGNB are one step closer to that goal. On 10 March both MIDN 4/C Duncan and MIDN 4/C deLutio received the NROTC National Scholarship. With the support of their fellow Midshipmen throughout the fall semester, both MIDN Duncan and deLutio worked tirelessly to achieve this great milestone, academically, physically, and mentally.

MIDN 4/C deLutio



MIDN deLutio is a Chemistry major aiming to commission as either an aviator or a special forces operator. MIDN deLutio says that, "to me, becoming an officer in the United States Navy represents the opportunity to sacrifice and serve others in a way that positively impacts the world today. I would like to thank MIDN Perello, Groebe, and Peck for always going out of their way to help me from day one to become a better person and Midshipman. I would also like to thank MIDN Paulson for always challenging me at PT and giving me someone to chase after during the PRT run. Lastly, I would like to thank LT Verone for providing me with the proper guidance throughout the process, and Captain Moore for his time and full support in my pursuit of the scholarship."

Terrorism Lecture

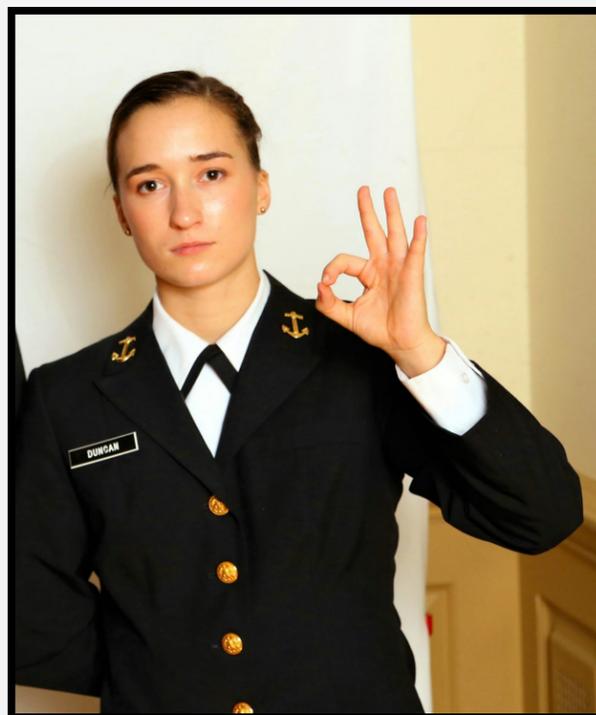


The Midshipmen engaged in Professor Lynn's lecture (Above).

On Thursday, 31 March the Midshipmen deviated from their usual drill routine and attended a lecture on terrorism offered through the university. The lecture, given by Professor Lynn (History) covered historical and cultural aspects of terrorism and applied them to current global terrorist situations.

MIDN 4/C deLutio has come a long way since his graduation from MOP in August (Bottom Left). MIDN 4/C Duncan poses at the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball (Bottom Right).

MIDN 4/C Duncan



MIDN Duncan is a Global Studies Major who seeks to earn a commissioning as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer. MIDN Duncan says that, "receiving the national scholarship was not only gratifying but also a relief. It's reassuring to know that I can now think in the long term about my goals as a Naval officer, not just earning a scholarship. Also, I owe a large amount of my success to my unit leadership. I want to thank MIDN Perello, Pepin, and Acuna for going above and beyond what was required of them in order to develop me as a Midshipman. I would also like to thank Captain Moore for taking his time to help me with the scholarship process."

The midshipmen enjoyed the opportunity to leave the armory and gain new insight on an issue that will affect their careers as future naval officers. MIDN Trevor 4/C Hixson stated with regard to the lecture, "I thought it was interesting how [Professor Lynn] categorized terror groups by military and political strength. He also emphasized the importance of how current terror groups, such as ISIS, achieve success by analyzing the history of past terror groups. Professor Lynn gave an informative brief which causes the audience to beg the question--can *we* find a solution to end current terror groups by analyzing former terror groups? Will we be able to prevent future terror acts from happening?" To expand on MIDN Hixson's statement, the knowledge that Professor Lynn imparts represents a shift in the way terror organizations need to be approached. His emphasis on terror groups using acts of brutality as a recruiting tool showed how the digital age is making it possible for groups such as ISIS to broaden their reach for potential recruits. He also discussed how the use of social media to enrage the general public has proved to be a powerful catalyst through which ISIS hopes to gain more popularity. Lynn advocates for a very diplomatic approach when dealing with terror groups, rather than the spontaneous, violent, and ineffective responses that the masses can have toward terror groups.



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