



# World's Greatest NROTC Battalion (WGNB) Newsletter

January 2021



## Toys for Tots

On Dec. 10th some of the Battalion's Midshipmen who were around between fall and winter break participated once again in Champaign's Toys for Tots, in preparation for Christmas and the holidays. This charity event was combined with Champaign WCIA. Like many other events during this pandemic it presented unique challenges for example collecting the donations from the people driving up to the event and sadly limiting the amount of Midshipmen that could participate at this event. Even with the limitations and many of the midshipmen home for the remaining semester there was still a turnout of about twenty Midshipmen. At the end of the event we were able to fill an entire shipping container full of donated toys and by 6:30 pm collected over \$23,000 in contributions. We as a Battalion are extremely proud of the performance of the midshipmen who participated in this volunteering event and look forward to many more Midshipmen seizing the many volunteering opportunities to help out our local community, including the upcoming Tri-Service Blood drive on February 17th. We would like to thank all the midshipmen who volunteered for the Toys for Tots event and both WCIA and Toys for Tots Champaign for hosting this event. A special thanks goes out to Mr. Caesar Perez for his planning and executing a very smooth and easy event and wish the best to his organization's future success.



## Sending off LT DeArmon



LT DeArmon dressed up as Velma from Scooby Doo shares a meal with the other Unit Staff after a successful Halloween 10K run

The WGNB recently said goodbye and good luck to Lt. Carolee DeArmon, who has just completed her tour at the University of Illinois NROTC. Over the last two and half years, Lt. DeArmon has been an important part to the Battalion's well being and smooth functioning operations. Her next assignment will be as a department head aboard the USS Green Bay in Sasebo, Japan as she is very excited to take on this new and unique responsibility. She is relieved by Lt. Matthew Stannard, who most recently served as the auxiliaries officer aboard the USS Tortuga out of Little Creek, Va. Lieutenant DeArmon graduated from the University of Illinois in 2013 where as a midshipman she served as the WGNB battalion commander. She returned to U of I in 2018 for shore duty as the Surface Warfare Officer advisor and the Military Assistant Professor, where she has inspired and successfully commissioned many future SWO's. It has been an amazing experience to have Lt. DeArmon as a part of the Greatest Naval Battalion, this time on the Unit Staff and mentoring countless Midshipmen during her tour at the University of Illinois. Fair winds and following seas, ma'am!

## Do YOU want to be part of the WGNB?

You can apply for the 4-year national scholarship online and list your top school as UIUC. If you are accepted, you will get your tuition paid for, a stipend during the year, and you will begin training over summer to become a future naval officer. Even if you don't get accepted, don't worry! You can still pick up scholarship during the year. Also, if you are a resident of Illinois and not on scholarship, the University of Illinois offers in-state tuition waivers for ROTC students! We look forward to seeing you at the World's Greatest Naval ROTC Battalion!

## Winter Break Workouts



A snowy picture taken by 3/C Bright during an afternoon run over winter break

To continue the training of qualified young men and women over the Winter break the Battalion continued intense PT plans individually. Midshipmen would log their workouts weekly, but also used the app Strava on their phones to connect and share with other Midshipmen their own running accomplishments. Strava is an internet service for tracking exercise with the incorporation of social network features. Two of the most avid users of these app were Midshipmen 3/C Robert Gortner and Ethan Bright of Charlie Company. Nothing stopped Midshipman Bright from continuing his running as he had some inspiring remarks, "When it came to conditions I was working out in, I would run outside in any condition. It could be snowy, raining and wet, cold, whatever the weather was I would still run outside. It's important to take account of conditions and prepare for them of course, but I have yet to find a day where the weather is a factor in why I wouldn't run outside." Both Midshipmen enjoyed using strava, Bright enjoyed it for being able to connect him with his other Midshipmen and felt a sense of unity for the Battalion, even over the long winter break. Midshipmen Gortner had a different style of workouts as he embarked on the journey of training for a Triathlon over the break. Gortner found Strava useful as "Strava's features made it easy to keep track of my progress and see how my times were coming out. It was also nice to see what my fellow MIDN were up to over break." Glad to see all the Midshipmen continue working out with speed, violence, and intensity.



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