



# World's Greatest Naval Battalion (WGNB) Newsletter

May 2018

## 2ndLt Austin Gregson

After graduating with dual Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Political Science, 2ndLt Austin Gregson commissioned into the United States Marine Corps. From Columbia, IL, 2ndLt Gregson served as the battalion's New Student Orientation program Midshipman in Charge and Battalion Commander. These leadership roles enabled him to personally develop the freshmen, using his leadership skills and experience to guide and mentor them, setting them up for success in the future. Unsure of what specialty he'd like to pursue, 2ndLt Gregson looks forward to "experiencing the fleet Marine Corps" after attending The Basic School in Quantico, VA. He would like to thank his "parents, unit staff, and all fellow midshipmen" for his time and prosperity in the WGNB and is excited to return to the battalion in the future.

## ENS Nicholas Paulson

Graduating from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's degree in Technical Systems Management ENS Nicholas Paulson will be heading to Pensacola, Florida for flight school to begin pilot training. Over his four years in the WGNB, ENS Paulson has "developed a great love for our Navy" and contributes much of his success to his family for influencing his patriotism, and unit staff for developing him throughout the program. ENS Paulson is currently enthusiastic toward a career in the Navy, but if he does get out, he plans on joining the reserves and either working with defense contractors or another aviation-related career.



ENS Nick Paulson poses with Captain Corapi after accepting the Oath of Office.

## Spring Commissioning 2018



2ndLT Nathan Filip, 2ndLT Benjamin Nagelhout, 2ndLT Samuel Beasley, and 2ndLT Austin Gregson give their Oath of Office with Captain Held (above). The newly commissioned officers sing the service songs with unit staff (right).

## ENS Dirk Husemann

From O'Fallon, Illinois, ENS Dirk Husemann graduated this spring with a degree in Atmospheric Sciences with a minor in History. Joining the Navy pilot community, ENS Husemann will soon leave for flight school in Pensacola, Florida. During his time as a midshipman, ENS Husemann "developed [his] own personal leadership style," and would like to thank his family, fellow commissionees, ultimate frisbee teammates, and the unit staff for their support throughout the process. As he joins the fleet, ENS Husemann looks forward to the adventure and plans on "staying flexible for new opportunities" from the Navy. In the long run, ENS Husemann is interested in either staying in the Navy as a pilot or flying commercially.

## ENS Sean Pepin

ENS Sean Pepin, originally from Paoli, Pennsylvania, graduated this Spring from the University of Illinois with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Heading into the aviation community as a pilot-select, ENS Pepin will leave for flight school this fall in Pensacola, Florida. Throughout his experience in the program, ENS Pepin has recognized the great support he has received from his fellow commissioning graduates, his parent and the unit staff. ENS Pepin isn't exactly sure what his future in the Navy will be, but he looks forward to "flying cool aircraft."

## 2ndLt Nathan Filip

Entering the NROTC program with years of service in combat arms, 2ndLt Nathan Filip has completed the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) this spring with a degree in Agricultural and Consumer Economics. As a newly commissioned officer, he will soon head for Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. Throughout this commissioning program, 2ndLt Filip has been able to spend valuable time with his wife and four kids. As he heads back into the fleet, 2ndLt Filip looks forward to leading his fellow Marines and the having the ability to "push them toward excellence."



## 2ndLt Samuel Beasley

Graduating from the University of Illinois on 12 May 2018 with a degree in Business Management, 2ndLt Samuel Beasley commissioned into the United States Marine Corps. 2ndLt Beasley looks forward to attending The Basic School this fall in Quantico, VA, and hopes to be a Naval Aviator. Having grown up in Wheaton, IL, 2ndLt Beasley would like to thank his "parents for supporting [him] throughout his time in college." 2ndLt Beasley is undecided about his time in the Marine Corps, but says: "If I don't decide to become a career Marine, I'll most likely pursue an MBA and find a job in business consulting, operations management or logistics management."



ENS Dirk Husemann salutes Master Sergeant Taylor in the First Salute Ceremony.

## ENS Michael Brady

ENS Michael Brady hails from Denver, Colorado, and recently completed his degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Illinois. As a Pilot-select, he will be attending flight school in Pensacola, FL, this fall with many of the other recent graduates of the WGNB. ENS Brady served as the Battalion Operations Officer this spring and was responsible for many events, such as the visit from RADM Bernacchi (Commander, Naval Service Training Command). As he prepares to leave the WGNB, he would like to thank “the broskis and everyone else who has supported [him] along the way.”



2ndLT Leigh is sworn into office by his uncle, David Crow (above).  
ENS Perello and ENS Groebe take the Oath of Office, given by LT Carolee DeArmon (right).

## 2ndLt Christopher Leigh

A native of Minonk, IL, 2ndLt Christopher Leigh recently graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Technical Systems Management. 2ndLt Leigh was integral in the professional development of the freshmen class as he served as a platoon sergeant during our New Student Orientation and Battalion Sergeant Major. Hoping to specialize as a Combat Engineer, 2ndLt Leigh will be attending The Basic School in Quantico, VA, this fall, and would like to thank his “classmates and family for their constant support, the MECEPS and staff for their guidance, and Ms. Carr for ensuring all administrative documents were up to pace.” He is unsure of how long he’ll remain in the Marine Corps, but he does plan on farming when he leaves.



## ENS Zach Thoren

Completing a degree from the University of Illinois in Agricultural Engineering this spring, ENS Zach Thoren, from Winnebago, Illinois, will head for flight school in Pensacola, Illinois, to begin his journey in the Navy pilot community. Throughout his years in the ROTC program, ENS Thoren has experienced great growth in his confidence, and acknowledges his parents for their support. Anticipating the future, ENS Thoren looks forward to “getting to flight school and starting [his] time in the Navy”.

## ENS Alex Perello

ENS Alex Perello, a native of Orlando, Florida, commissioned into the United States Navy on 14 May 2018, after receiving his Bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology. As the only officer this semester to commission as a Surface Warfare Officer, ENS Perello will be reporting to DDG 116, USS Thomas Hudner, in Mayport, FL soon after graduation. Serving as Battalion Commander in the fall and the Chief Petty Officer of Alpha Company in the spring, ENS Perello has dedicated much of his time to the WGNB, particularly in the Labs program during drill. ENS Perello would like to thank all unit staff for his development in the program, but in particular, “LT Mayer for his guidance and mentorship.” While ENS Perello plans on enjoying his time in the Navy, he would like to put his Kinesiology degree to use as an NBA strength and conditioning coach when he gets out.



## 2ndLt Benjamin Nagelhout

Having graduated from the University of Illinois on 12 May 2018 with a degree in Accountancy, 2ndLt Benjamin Nagelhout will be attending The Basic School in Quantico, VA, this fall. Pursuing a Human Intelligence specialty, 2ndLt Nagelhout is excited “to finally be doing a job and acting on what we have learned for the past four years.” He would like to thank Capt Held and MSgt Taylor, “as they were most influential in [my] development in this program,” but also says “the MECEPs for providing the best insight as to what it means to be a good leader from the viewpoint of the enlisted Marine.” He is unsure of how long he’ll remain in the Marine Corps, however sees himself serving in the US Intelligence Community should he decide to leave the service.

2ndLT Benjamin Nagelhout poses with his parents and sister after being pinned (left).

This fall, on Saturday, 13 October, the WGNB will hold an Alumni Tailgate for the Homecoming game against Purdue. Relive your WGNB days with old classmates and enjoy some good food!

## ENS Rune Brown

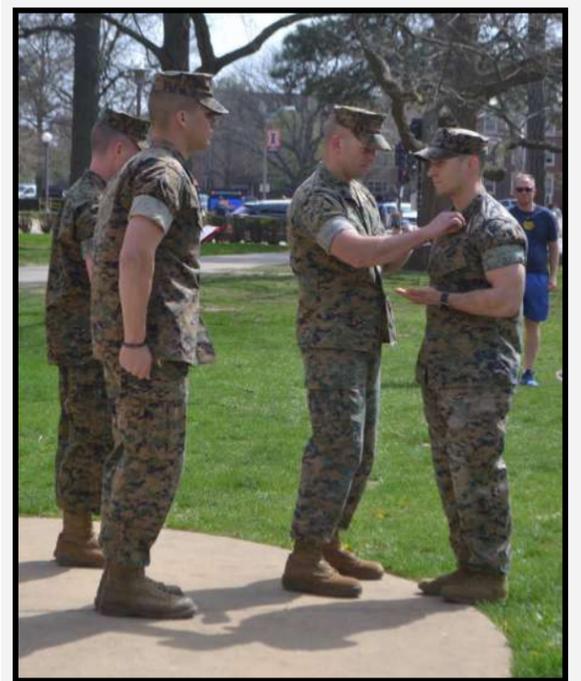
ENS Rune Brown, from Aurora, Colorado, graduated this spring from the University of Illinois with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Joining the Naval Flight Officer community, ENS Brown will head for Pensacola, Florida this fall to begin flight school. Throughout his time in the program, ENS Brown has learned valuable information about the “key qualities for a leader,” and would like to thank his grandmother, Elinor, for being there “since day one.” After getting out of the Navy, ENS Brown hopes to use his Aerospace Engineering degree or become an astronaut.

## ENS Theodore Groebe

A graduate with a degree in Technical Systems Management, ENS Theodore Groebe is a pilot-select headed to Pensacola, FL, this fall for flight school. As Alpha Company Commander in the fall semester, ENS Groebe was invaluable with his experience, guidance, and mentorship. Hailing from Oak Lawn, IL, ENS Groebe would like to thank his parents for their support and looks forward to “being in the fleet,” perhaps for a career.

## Staff Sergeant Andre Promoted

On 1 May 2018, MECEP Michael Andre was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. To show our support, Charlie Company, his fellow MECEPs, and unit staff members gathered at the Armory Flagpole to witness the citation reading and pinning. Master Sergeant Taylor read his citation as Staff Sergeant, now Second Lieutenant, Nathan Filip did him the honor and pinned his new rank insignia. The ceremony concluded as the Marine Officer Instructor, Captain Held, congratulated him and presented him with a certificate.



Staff Sergeant Andre is pinned by Second Lieutenant Filip as Master Sergeant reads the citation.



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