



World's Greatest Naval Battalion (WGNB) Newsletter

February 2018

Notre Dame Leadership Conference

This past weekend the WGNB sent four midshipmen and one MECEP to the 2018 Naval Leadership Weekend at the University of Notre Dame. MIDN 2/C Paul Delutio, MIDN 2/C Audrey Duncan, MIDN 2/C Mitchell Ciszewski, MIDN 2/C Karl Gee and Sergeant Johnathan Sutton represented the WGNB at the event. These midshipmen, along with over three hundred other students from around the country, experienced the pinnacle of U.S. Navy leadership. The weekend began with a welcoming speech from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steven S. Giordano, who focused his presentation on the "human element" in which leaders get to know their Sailors and Marines on a personal basis. The day continued with speeches from Tom Schreier, Founding Director of the Notre Dame Inspired Leadership Initiative and Sergeant Major Donna Dunbar (Ret.), who spoke on the best place to position yourself in a leadership role relative to your followers. Following the speakers, the midshipmen had the opportunity to attend a junior officer panel. In a brief to the Battalion, MIDN 2/C Ciszewski noted that his biggest take away from this panel was the quote, "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care." Saturday began with a speech from former Marine Corps Captain Regan Jones, who is currently Notre Dame's director for military and veteran affairs and then continued with many more impressive speeches. The other speakers included Christopher Stevens, Co-Founding Director of the Notre Dame Inspired Leadership Initiative, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, and Lawrence Greenspun, Director of Public Sector Engagement for Drucker Institute.



The WGNB Midshipmen pose for a picture on campus following the first day of speeches (above).

Midshipman Spotlight

This week's Midshipman Spotlight focuses on Midshipman 2/C Paul DeLutio. MIDN DeLutio comes from Elk Grove Village, IL which sits about a half hour outside of Chicago. As a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) student, he plans to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a minor in English.

Midshipman Spotlight (Cont.)

In the Battalion, he works as the Freshmen Company Commander. Not only is he developing the underclassmen, but himself as well. He quotes, "I've learned that I need to be selfless and be sensitive to problems that other people need help with, even when the problem may conflict with my own work." One responsibility that he is very excited to take charge of is the planning of the 2018 University of Illinois NROTC New Student Orientation (NSO). MIDN 2/C DeLutio is very involved outside of the unit as well. Working as an LAS 101 intern, he mentored 20-25 traditional freshmen students as they transitioned into the college life. He often spends his free time working out in campus parking garages and the Japanese Garden Hill. On the weekends, he partakes in Karaoke Night at Murphy's Pub with his friends! From a young age, Midshipman DeLutio learned through high school experiences that hard work pays off when talent cannot. He learned to be resilient and he owes that to his parents, family, and coaches. The person that he most looks up to is his older brother Joey DeLutio, who is a firefighter in Mount Prospect, IL. Because of his charisma, work ethic, and loyalty, Midshipman DeLutio tries to maintain a positive attitude when faced with any challenge. In the Navy, Midshipman DeLutio would like to be an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer. He admires how the men and women of this community care deeply for their work, look out for their sailors, and have an impeccable work ethic.



Midshipman DeLutio stands behind the endzone inside of Memorial Stadium as part of the WGNB Bell Team (above). Midshipman DeLutio conducting pt at Vanderbilt for an EOD weekend in 2017 (below).



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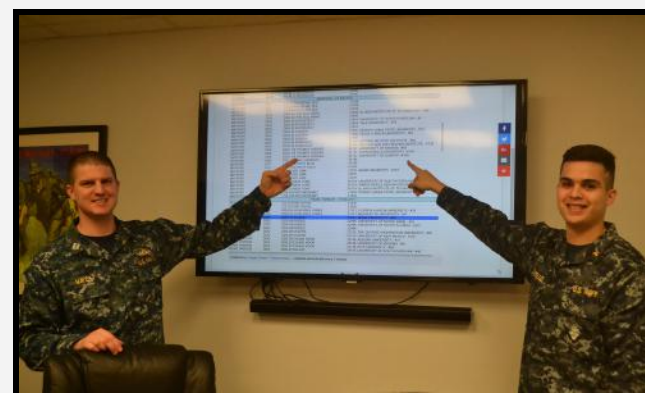
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MIDN 1/C Perello Ship Selection

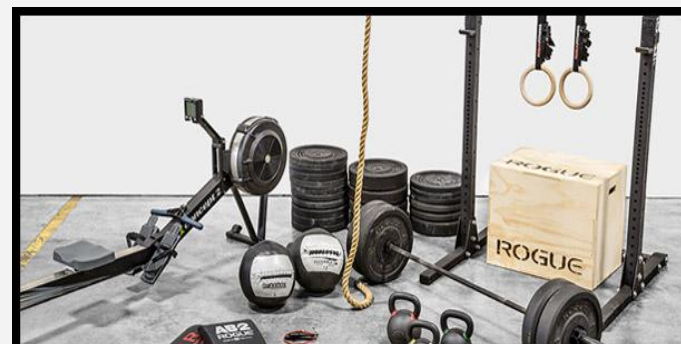
The WGNB is proud to congratulate Midshipman 1/C Alex Perello on his 2018 Ship Selection Ceremony. MIDN Perello chose the newest Destroyer to the fleet, the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) stationed out of Mayport, Florida! Celebrating with family, friends, fellow midshipmen, and unit staff of the WGNB, Midshipman Perello was happy to select a brand new destroyer that will be commissioning in the winter of 2018. Despite a few technical difficulties, the selection was successful and emotional, with Midshipman Perello's parents, brother, and girlfriend all present. Following his selection, a luncheon of tacos catered by El Charro concluded the momentous occasion. Congratulations to Midshipman Perello on his ship selection.



Midshipman Perello and Surface Warfare Officer, LT Jamie Mayer, immediately following the Ship Selection Ceremony. LT Mayer has played an instrumental role in helping MIDN Perello achieve this goal (above).

New Battalion HIIT Room

Physical training is one of the main areas of development for future officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. In order to promote and develop physical fitness of WGNB midshipmen, a new High Intensity Tactical Training (HITT) room has been set up and supplied with new equipment by the Unit. It features equipment such as a rowing machine, squat/pull-up rack, jump ropes, sandbags, and barbells. The new HITT room will soon be open for use by all Midshipmen. The WGNB is proud to invest in the development of current Midshipman as they train towards the ultimate goal of becoming future Navy and Marine Corps officers.



The new WGNB HITT room contains several new pieces of equipment that have previously not been available to Midshipmen (above).