



# World's Greatest Naval Battalion (WGNB) Newsletter

March 2018

## Ohio State University Drill Competition

This March the Rifle/Pistol, Endurance, Color Guard, and Drill teams competed in The Ohio State University NROTC Spring Invitational Meet. For the first time the battalion also formed Shiphandling, Dodgeball, and King of the Circle teams. This competition was jam packed with all events occurring on Saturday 03MAR. After arriving on Friday evening and spending the night in Columbus, the WGNB Endurance, Color Guard, Drill, Dodgeball, Ship handling, and King of the Circle teams put their long, hard hours of practice to the test. Awake before dawn, two different WGNB E-Teams conquered the outdoor endurance race where the eight Midshipmen ran a course several miles long in flak jackets and completed full body exercises. After finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place, the team hopes to keep their heads held high and plans to work that much harder in the off-season in order to finish among the top three at the next drill competition. Shortly after the E-Teams began their trek, the WGNB Squad Drill Team, led by MIDN 2/C Mah, mustered to perform their drill card. Later, proudly presenting the United States, Navy, and Marine Corps flags, the Color Guard received 4<sup>th</sup> place for their performance. Comprised of mostly underclass Midshipmen, MIDN 3/C Betsy Rodriguez led the Platoon drill team to place 3<sup>rd</sup>. Around the same time, the Rifle & Pistol team tested their marksmanship with both .22 caliber rifles and pistols.



MIDN 2/C Paul Delutio performs a buddy-drag with MIDN 4/C Pedro Villanova for the E-team race (above).  
MIDN 3/C Betsy Rodriguez receives the trophy for an overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the drill competition (below).



## Ohio State University Drill Competition (Cont.)

With little to no practice before the competition, the team was able to walk away with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. Following these main events, the OSU NROTC Battalion took a turn from traditional drill competition events by participating in the ship handling competition, dodgeball tournament, and king of the circle games. Without ever having competed together before, these teams took home 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> places respectively. In the end, the WGNB is proud to have taken 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall at this drill meet.

## Battalion Member of the Month

This month, the WGNB would like to recognize MIDN 3/C Nicholas Austill as the Battalion Member of the Month. Coming from Lindenhurst, Illinois, MIDN Austill is not only involved in the battalion, but also is a member of the Water Ski Club on campus. He credits much of his success to his parents, who raised him with the morals and ethics that are mirrored in the Navy. Having served as a Platoon Commander, Assistant Training Officer, and New Student Orientation (NSO) Midshipman Instructor, MIDN Austill has dedicated countless hours towards the battalion and the improvement of its midshipmen. During NSO this past August, MIDN Austill personally trained a squad of nine freshman, instructing them on military traditions, conduct, and drill. Through his leadership roles, he has led midshipmen through PT sessions by setting the example and pushing their limits. Beyond his billets in the battalion, MIDN Austill is also a member of the Endurance Team, which recently competed in the Ohio State Drill Meet, earning fourth place. He hopes to one day commission as a Surface Warfare Officer, but views commissioning in itself as becoming a part of something bigger and greater than himself. As an active midshipman in the battalion, MIDN Austill's enthusiasm, servant leadership, and commitment reflects the highest values and tradition of the United States Naval Service.



## Marine Option Bulldog Prep

On the weekend of 23MAR, ten Marine-Options from the WGNB participated in the Purdue University Bulldog Prep at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The purpose of this training was directed toward the preparation of midshipmen for Officer Candidate School (OCS). The event included Midshipmen from NROTC Units across the Midwest as well as local Officer Selection Officer (OSO) candidates. OCS complete Marine-Option Midshipmen provided the majority of the instructions throughout the event. During this high intensity weekend, the candidates took part in physically demanding events while a blizzard and freezing weather loomed overhead. To begin their training, all candidates were told to write a 300-word autobiography in their squad bays. The next morning, a Physical Fitness Test (PFT) was held following reveille. Throughout the course of the event, Midshipmen participated in Small Unit Leadership Evaluations and Leadership Reaction Courses which tested and enhanced their leadership skills. To finish off their training, the Staff and Candidates conducted a six-mile administration move which involved a hike with weighted packs. During the three-day evolution, Candidates were given four Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) which helped teach them the lesson of rationing. They were also responsible for standing fire watch and learning Marine Corps knowledge. OCS bound Midshipmen were able to perform and be evaluated on skills that will be crucial to successfully completing the training. Ultimately, this experience gave our Marine-Option Midshipmen a field of vision to see what needs improvement before attending Officer Candidate School.



MIDN 3/C Schuyler Hixson and MIDN 4/C Alexa Emano take part in a Leadership Reaction Course at Bulldog Prep (above).  
MIDN 3/C Nicholas Austill takes the helm of a U.S. Navy yard patrol vessel on Lake Michigan as part of the Fall 2017 YP trip (left).



us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/illinoisNROTC>

Follow us on Instagram at: [@wgnb\\_uuic](https://www.instagram.com/wgnb_uuic)

Donate at: <http://rotc.navy.illinois.edu/donate.html>

Shop for Unit Apparel:

<https://wgnb.logosoftwear.com>