Every summer, our midshipmen embark on trips across the world, training aboard various military platforms alongside officers and enlisted personnel of our U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Throughout their cruise, our midshipmen strive to exemplify the message of University of Texas and our Naval ROTC. In this summer newsletter, read about a few of our midshipmen’s experiences with the greatest naval force in the world.
Surface Warfare Week  
MIDN 3/C Marshall Hoak

I learned the importance of Senior NCOs in the fleet during SWO week, recognizing the impact they had upon junior enlisted and officers. Recognizing their importance towards the fluidity of the fleet was imperative towards my training experience.

Experiencing a ship underway, watching a crew in full motion, was my favorite experience during the week.

My favorite thing about San Diego was the unique local culture shaped by the Navy, as the community showed strong support towards our Sailors’ service.

Submarine Week  
MIDN 3/C Jagan Ravichandran

The best part of sub week was being able to talk to the submariners in the Virginia class, where they were more than happy to speak to me and show me their job. I made the most of my 24 hour stay on the submarine, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most others.

Sights and places I enjoyed during my cruise were Kings Bay and the beaches of Florida, as well as dolphins riding the crests of underway ships. This cruise was an experience I will never forget.

Marine Week  
MIDN 3/C Stuart Bayliss

During Marine week, I learned the importance of accountability for both personnel and equipment in order to maintain the safety of your Marines and ensure they are properly equipped.

My favorite part of Marine week was the Infantry Immersion Trainer, where we participated in mock missions involving realistic warfare tactics and settings. San Diego was a beautiful location with impressive beaches where I spent my time surfing.

Aviation Week  
MIDN 3/C Hannah Field

During Aviation week, I got to learn more about fixed and rotary wing aircraft used by the Navy and Marine Corps. I even learned how to take flight on a V-22 Osprey in a flight simulator.

One of the most incredible experiences was the opportunity to pilot a trainer aircraft, the T-34, and roam the skies above the San Diego aboard the MH-60 Sierra.

San Diego was an amazing place, and I am so glad that I was able to have these amazing experiences.
Surface Warfare Cruise
MIDN 2/C Eric Barragan
I delved into the world of surface warfare aboard the USS Michael Murphy in Pearl Harbor, taking advantage of this great multitude of knowledge provided by the enlisted and officers aboard the ship. I learned more about ship culture and even experienced an emergency situation that showed me the Navy's ability to mobilize at short notice.

Being my first time in Hawaii, I made the most of this possibly once-in-a-lifetime experience - made possible by the Navy I will proudly serve.

Submarine Cruise
MIDN 2/C Benjamin Summers
Being 6 ½ feet tall, I expected this to be an interesting experience right at the beginning. Aboard the fast-attack submarine USS Helena, I got to meet the crew, both enlisted and officers, hear their stories, and learn more about the in-and-outs of the ship.

I also spent a few days in the Bahamas at the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center. Kayaking, spear fishing, and relaxing were a few things I did among those unforgettable beaches.

Aside from a few head bumps, my cruise was an incredibly enjoyable experience that I will never forget.

Amphibious Ship Cruise
MIDN 2/C Priscilla Rubalcaba
Throughout my 3 weeks on the USS Boxer, I enjoyed my interactions with the Marines. It was an interesting experience as I got to see the Marines operate on a ship rather than on land, expanding my understanding of their capabilities.

While in Bahrain, I experienced an entirely new world and culture. Arriving during Ramadan, I was exposed to one of the most culturally enriching experiences of my life, something that I greatly enjoyed.
Mountain Warfare Training
MIDN 1/C Adrian Hernandez

Mountain Warfare training is meant to push us out of our comfort zones with intense exercises and immersion into the Marine Corps’ operating environment. The instructors implemented their instructions with intensity, giving us an environment that will prepare us for the rigors of Officer Candidate School. What I considered the most difficult aspect of my training was the effort and endurance required to overcome the intense hiking across various elevations. However difficult, this training was important in acclimating myself to the mobility expected of Marines. Throughout the experience, I found myself discovering who I really am, what I stand for, what I am capable of, and what I will love and defend in order to push myself through my training. This strong personal support gave me the determination to complete my training and become one step closer towards becoming a Marine.
1/C Cruise
MIDN 1/C Gretchen Ledesma

I chose a surface cruise because I am heading towards a naval career as a SWO, and I wanted to get more experience with life on a ship. Guided by a great running mate, I found myself learning so much about the enlisted and officers aboard the ship, spending plenty of time in the Pilot House and Combat Information Center. Along with my experience with the fleet, I also had the opportunity to enjoy Hawaii, San Diego, and an underway in between. Overall, it was an excellent cruise!

SWO Nuke Cruise
MIDN 1/C Cecilia Beavers

I had the unique opportunity of attaching to a reactor department aboard the USS Carl Vinson in San Diego, California. Throughout the cruise, I met a capable crew that made sure the entire ship provided enough energy for the crew and the mission. Spending 20 days underway, I had the great privilege of observing a crew within the reactor spaces of the USS Carl Vinson, an amazing opportunity that allowed me to see how a carrier functions below deck.

Aviation Cruise
MIDN 1/C Jacob Bishop

After much consideration, I chose an aviation cruise over a submarine cruise. I spent my cruise with the F/A-18 FRS squadron, where I learned more about the community, the lifestyle, and how awesome jets are. I really enjoyed riding the F/A-18, donning full flight gear and experiencing heavy G's and speeds you would find in the “Danger Zone”. Although the location was out in the desert, my time spent flying with the squadron was enough to make this an excellent summer cruise.
Officer Candidate School
MIDN 1/C Alex Ebarguen

OCS is a six-week program in Quantico, Virginia designed to screen and evaluate candidates as potential Marine officers. The course evaluates candidates in the areas of physical fitness, academics, and, most importantly, leadership. The course is designed to be both mentally and physically challenging.

I found the most challenging aspect of OCS to be the constant stress we were placed under day in and day out for six weeks. These stressors is what ultimately allowed us to be comfortable in making decisions that will later on have an impact in our military.

The most important lesson I learned at OCS was that, no matter the situation, the missions and your Marines come first. As potential leaders, the importance of mission accomplishment and the welfare of our Marines was constantly stressed. I took this and other lessons I learned during my training with the utmost respect, and I consider this training to be one of the most formative experiences towards my leadership so far.
We would like to thank everyone who has supported our battalion throughout all of its successful events and activities. I would personally like to thank all of our alumni and benefactors who have contributed to the program, affording students like myself the opportunity to continue pursuing education at an esteemed institution.

We will continue to maintain the excellence of our program to promote the education of an excellent group of future officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

MIDN 1/C Cecilia Beavers