The University of Texas at Austin
Naval ROTC

The Spur and Anchor

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New Student Orientation
MIDN 2/C Eric Barragan

From the 17th of August to the 21st, incoming freshmen participated in an orientation program designed by our Naval ROTC to evaluate their abilities and prepare them for the rigors of college and our organization.

Starting early in the morning, they took part in physical fitness evaluations, obstacle courses, informational briefings, and marching in formation. Along with these events, they also took part in swimming qualifications and shooting range exercises that allowed them to apply what they had learned in the classroom.

After four days of rigorous orientation, the new students were able to apply their newfound knowledge in a soon-to-be familiar setting - the inspection and drill formations. Having completed the orientation program, these new students, with friends and family as witnesses, were sworn in to our Naval ROTC and garnered the title of midshipmen.
Run to Dallas
MIDN 2/C Priscilla Rubacalba

Excitement filled the air as our Battalion prepared for our annual Run to Dallas in October. Starting at the Torch Light Parade, the moment coach Charlie Strong handed our battalion commanding officer, MIDN 1/C Beavers, the ball, we were off. Five groups of runners, running across three run shifts, made their way to Dallas on Thursday. On Friday, after a mile run with OU’s NROTC, we took care of business and beat their flag football team for the second year in a row, 19-6. On Saturday, the game ball was delivered back to Coach Strong by MIDN 1/C Beavers, concluding Run to Dallas. The Battalion looks forward to next year in continuing this outstanding tradition!
President’s Cup
MIDN 1/C Jacob Bishop

The bi-annual President’s Cup is a tri-service competition between the three of the University of Texas at Austin’s Reserve Officer Training Corps branches. During the fall semester, the services compete on three consecutive mornings: outdoor sports, calisthenics, and indoor sports. This event has been a tradition for several years, and it is crucial in building camaraderie in the fall semester between the new, junior midshipmen and the returning, senior midshipmen. The President’s Cup fosters some healthy inter-service rivalry and allows Texas Navy to display their skills in a great environment.
Birthday Ball
MIDN 2/C Joshua Marks

On 5 November 2016, the University of Texas Naval ROTC held their annual Birthday Ball in celebration of the 241st birthday of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. After weeks of preparation for the event was a huge success and a night to remember. The Guest of Honor, Major General Cuoco, United States Army, Retired, delivered a motivating speech to inspire the battalion about their future careers, particularly focusing on those soon to commission. After the ceremonies and a fine meal, the midshipmen and their guests danced the night away. It was a lasting experience for the Fourth Class who celebrated their first ball and the First Class who celebrated their final ball as midshipmen. To commemorate the experience each guest received a souvenir glass adorned with a UT NROTC logo to remind them of the occasion.
Alumni Weekend
MIDN 3/C Hannah Field

Alumni Weekend brought together former Longhorn midshipmen back to the University of Texas. The current midshipmen of the University of Texas Naval ROTC Battalion had the chance to interact with these valued alumni through multiple events. In the morning before the alumni football game, midshipmen were presented with scholarships from the Midshipman Foundation and the CLA. Following the game, the midshipmen had a BBQ with the alumni. The opportunity to interact with alumni is a privilege and it is one of the most important experiences as we learn from those that have fought for our country before us. We can learn so much from our alumni and I know that I will take what I have learned from my conversations with them, out to the fleet.
Fall FEX

MIDN 1/C Chris Guerra

This semester I had the honor of being the Leatherneck Platoon commander and the OIC for the Fall Field Exercise. This event is put on each semester to further develop the Marine Option midshipmen, and to evaluate their performance before heading to Officer Candidate School (OCS). It was very rewarding to see how much this event benefits the platoon, especially our 2/C midshipmen who are heading to OCS this summer. This event would not have been possible without the help of our MECEPs who spent a lot of their time putting together the several events necessary to make up the field exercise, such as night land navigation, a physical training competition, the nine-mile hike, and the Small Unit Leadership Exercises (SULEs), which are all used to prepare our midshipmen for success at OCS. I am very confident that our Marine option juniors will execute their OCS training with precision and accuracy.
Service Assignment
MIDN 1/C Cecilia Beavers

One of the most significant steps for MIDN working towards a commission is service assignment. After three years of hard work and dedication to ROTC and to school we learn what community we will join once commissioned. There are many factors that go into consideration when service assignments are determined. All of the 1/C MIDN submit a preference list in late August. Along with this, the Department of the Navy looks at many different factors, including our grades, aptitude scores, major, and ASTB scores for those interested in aviation. While it was an anxious wait, we were relieved to have been able to get into the community we wanted. It was incredibly motivating to see what our hard work was for.

This moment defines the next chapter in each of our lives. I can’t wait to commission with these incredible men and women by my side! It has been a long time coming. Congrats to all of them and Hookem Horns!
Commissioning
ENS Gretchen Ledesma
2NDLT Christopher Grieg
2NDLT Veronica Ortega

After years of hard work and training, these three members of our unit, surrounded by friends, family, and acquaintances in the Lee Hage Jamail Academic Room, received their commission to become unrestricted line officers in the US Navy and Marine Corps.

"I'm incredibly excited and honored to join my ship," said ENS Ledesma prior to her commissioning. 2NDLT Grieg plans to "do one tour as a platoon commander for a rifle platoon as a company executive officer." 2NDLT Ortega plans "to continue and complete my 20 years of service to the Corps either as an Air Traffic Control Officer or Logistics officer."

Congratulations to these three officers as they begin their journeys in their respective careers!
Intramural Sports
MIDN 2/C Sebastian Camacho
Coaching the Battalion's intramural teams this year was very rewarding. It's always great to see friends participate and to manage stress that they have had through healthy competition. The teams also did well this year, placing in the top of their brackets. More importantly, people continue to take part in sports which promote not only a healthy lifestyle but also comradery in the battalion.