



The Lookout



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Midshipmen practice close order drill at SAC Fields.

Photos courtesy of MIDN 3/C Stearns

Battalion Conducts Close Order Drill

MIDN 2/C Ward

Atlanta Region NROTC midshipmen practiced close order drill September 12th at E. Roe Stamps Field. Pursuant to the goal of producing competent Naval and Marine Corps officers, close order drill (COD) is practiced at least two to three times a semester. COD is a cornerstone of the Navy and Marine Corps'



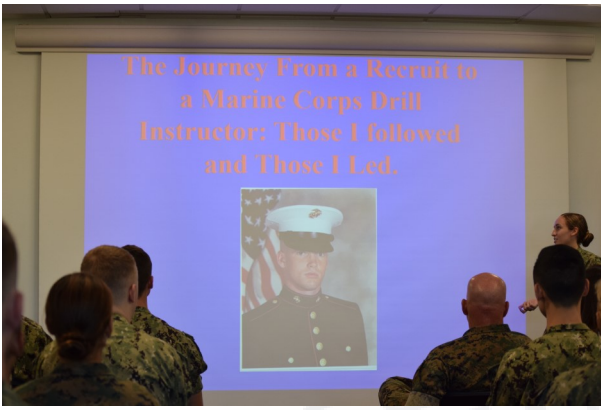
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customs and courtesies and promotes teamwork, “esprit de corps,” discipline and immediate obedience to orders. It also is a cornerstone of developing speaking confidence and command presence.

COD was conducted by having each platoon in both Golf and Tango company split up to practice. First, simple facing movements were conducted before moving onto more complex maneuvers. Right and left columns, to-the-rear (turning 180 degrees around), obliques (moving diagonally to the original direction), and flanks were then practiced. Platoon commanders were routinely rotated to ensure different midshipmen could get experience leading their platoon.





Photos courtesy of MIDN 3/C Stearns



Guest Speaker: GySgt David Erwin, USMC (Ret.)

MIDN 3/C Tanksley

On September 24th, the Georgia Tech battalion listened to Gunnery Sergeant David Erwin, Ret. speak during drill. GySgt Erwin spent 20 years enlisted in the Marine Corps, with 8 years spent as a drill instructor (DI) at Parris Island, Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida and Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. During his tours as a DI, he had the honor of training individuals such as LT Michael Murphy, multiple future Blue Angels pilots, an astronaut, and others who would go on to become highly successful officers.

GySgt Erwin recapped several lessons learned in his career. He first discussed the importance of having someone to emulate and emphasized that having role models is essential to becoming a good leader. To drive this point home, he showed photos and told stories about the different people he has looked up to in his life, from his Company Commander to his Sergeant Major. They all left a lasting impact on him and helped him to develop into a leader. After discussing his time as a follower, he delved into leadership and how he applied the skills he learned as a follower into being a DI. He entertained the battalion with lighthearted stories and unconventional leader-

ship advice. As the battalion normally has high ranking officers as guest speakers, hearing from a former DI provided a unique perspective. GySgt Erwin's experience as a senior enlisted member who trained successful officers lent special meaning to his words and advice. We are thankful to have heard him speak and are eager to apply his leadership advice in our own journeys to become Naval and Marine Corps officers.





Photos courtesy of MIDN 3/C Stearns



Guest Speaker: RADM Andrew Mueller, USN

MIDN 4/C Farnoli

On September 17, 2019, Georgia Tech NROTC midshipmen were fortunate enough to be visited by RADM Andrew J. Mueller, Deputy Commander of Navy Recruiting Command. Admiral Mueller commissioned through NROTC at the University of Rochester and served in the aviation community as a pilot. He traveled around the world while leading sailors, and accumulated a great deal of knowledge and valuable experience along the way, some of which he happily shared with the battalion.

In his brief, Admiral Mueller emphasized the importance of teamwork, treating everyone with respect, and building relationships as early as possible. He mentioned that the key to a competitive FITREP is constantly being prepared and at your best, as evaluation from one's superiors is constant. He also touched on the growing importance of warrior toughness, which he described as the ability to take a hit and keep on going. Officers must perform under pressure and handle the "day in, day out grind." Careers in the Navy are demanding, but also very rewarding.

Furthermore, Admiral Mueller addressed the need for constant growth and improvement of our sailors

and technology. As a joint force with the Air Force and the Army, Admiral Mueller believes that through composure and deterrence the United States Navy will continue to remain on top of its adversaries.



Department Head Spotlight: Athletics Officer



Photos courtesy of MIDN 3/C Stearns



MIDN 2/C Ward

The Lookout sat down with this semester's Athletics Officer, MIDN 2/C Burgin, to discuss some of his philosophy and goals for this semester.

Lookout: What are your goals for the semester as ATHO?

MIDN 2/C Burgin: Instill a stronger personal passion in everyone when it comes to fitness. Fitness isn't just something to take seriously when it comes time to take a PT test, it's a part of maintaining a warfighting capability and a healthy life.

Lookout: What single piece of advice would you give to 4/c midshipmen regarding excelling in PT?

MIDN 2/C Burgin: Workout more than just for battalion or squad PT's. The more you stand out amongst your peers when it comes to PT, the more you'll get noticed and given credit for exceeding what is asked of you in terms of PT performance.

Lookout: What have you learned so far leading the

battalion in PT?

MIDN 2/C Burgin: If you mess up explaining something or mess up giving an order, don't worry about it, correct yourself and don't make the same mistake again. Your people will always respond well to you being a confident and capable leader.

Lookout: Why should physical fitness be a priority for midshipmen as prospective naval officers?

MIDN 2/C Burgin: Physical fitness is a cornerstone when it comes to maintaining your warfighting spirit, while also being a part of FITREPS for midshipmen. Performing well on your PRT can help set you apart from your peers in a good way.

Lookout: What do you think is more important for a midshipman to develop: strength training or conditioning?

MIDN 2/C Burgin: Conditioning is the focus of our battalion and squad PT's, so if I were to tell MIDN what to focus on I'd say familiarize yourself with strength PT since you're already exposed to conditioning more often on a regular basis. The physical benefits of strength training are incredible, and it's

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another good skill to keep in your back pocket that has physical and mental benefits.

Lookout: Do you have any nutritional advice for peak performance?

MIDN 2/C Burgin: Although not a nutritionist, ensuring you eat enough before a workout or eating when you start the day can be a huge help to maintain sustained superior performance. Your body needs fuels to create energy, and depriving yourself of that will only harm you down the line.

Conversation with Commanding Officer CAPT Foege



CAPT Foege

MIDN 2/C Ward

The Lookout talked with newly arrived Atlanta Region NROTC Commanding Officer Captain Patrick Foege to discuss his arrival, goals and vision for the unit.

Lookout: As the Atlanta Region NROTC Commanding Officer, what are your goals for your tour?

CAPT Foege: First, I want to have training with a purpose; that is, every interaction with midshipmen should have pur-

pose, to include labs, drill, and PT. I want to tie it all to the core warfighting competencies of watch standing, seamanship, firefighting, damage control and small arms handling and marksmanship. My idea is that everything we do is tied to those goals underpinned by the mission statement “to develop officers and sailors of character and competence who are basically trained in our five warfighting competencies...” Furthermore, I want to grow the unit. We can do that through retention, helping those already here meet the standards, and bringing in more incoming scholarship freshmen and college programmers. I want us to grow because that would bring more leadership opportunities for everyone, as well as bring more future officers into this incredible culture, and produce more warfighters inculcated by this unit.

Lookout: What is your command philosophy and overarching vision? What can midshipmen do to help achieve it?

CAPT Foege: My command philosophy revolves around our imperative of developing warfighters and our mission statement. My three command pillars are teamwork, ownership, professionalism. If we tie ourselves to those, we’ll accomplish our mission and be better warfighters. With teamwork: individual accomplishments are made possible by the team and the team is greater than the sum of its parts- we need to serve each other and want nothing but the best for our shipmates. With ownership: take personal responsibility for reputation, appearance, performance of our unit; if you see something wrong then fix it; set high standards and expect high results. Professionalism was chosen

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acknowledging our surrounding college environment. Regardless, we have to make sure we're living Navy core values 24/7. As members of the maritime profession of arms, our professional ethic is what guides and steers our actions.

Lookout: If you could go back and give advice to yourself as a midshipman at the Naval Academy, what would you advise?

CAPT Foege: I'd advise myself to understand my commander's guidance and vision for whatever command I was at. Tying into that, I'd take a longer-term view to what we were trying to accomplish and have long term goals. Simply put, I'd be more forward thinking.

Lookout: Why did you choose an NROTC job?

CAPT Foege: I took this job for the opportunity to take my leadership and warfighting knowledge and pass it on to the Navy & Marine Corps' future generation of leaders.

Lookout: What excites you about being the Commanding Officer of Atlanta Region NROTC?

CAPT Foege: Energy! The energy I sense in the consortium is high and there's lots of enthusiasm. To see the advisors take what they learned in the fleet to training midshipmen, to give back, is exciting.

Lookout: Why this unit and area specifically?

CAPT Foege: This unit has a reputation of one of the best in the country and is associated with producing top notch officers. Additionally, Atlanta Region NROTC presents me the opportunity to be stationed in a part of the country that I haven't been as much.

Lookout: Do you have any parting thoughts?

CAPT Foege: For all of us- myself, the XO (Executive Officer), and the junior officers, this is an incredible opportunity to take things we've all learned to training midshipmen. I'm proud of the work midshipmen have done already and am impressed with their demonstrated professionalism and teamwork. Keep up the good work.



Photo courtesy of MIDN 3/C Bucci