



NROTC Quarterly

From Commander, Naval Service Training Command



NROTC Units Welcome Midshipmen With NSO/MOP



FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (Aug. 15, 2016) A midshipman candidate dangles on rope stirrups 50 feet above the ground as other NROTC midshipmen candidates watch from below at the Northern Arizona University's Challenge Course as part of joint New Student Orientation training. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt.

Story by Scott A. Thornbloom, Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs

Each fall new students are welcomed to universities across America. Many of these new students participate in an orientation to learn the school and campus.

At more than 160 colleges and universities Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) midshipmen welcome new students looking to become officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. These students also go through an orientation to the unit and military called New Student Orientation (NSO) or Midshipman Orientation Program (MOP).

"The University of Notre Dame NROTC Unit conducted its standalone New Student Orientation (NSO) training aboard both the university campus and Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Michigan," said Capt. John P. Carter, professor of Naval Science and commanding officer of the unit. "The NSO training was synchronized with the University orientation program resulting in seamless integration to the campus environment. There was also a strong focus on quality of training and safety, which resulted in zero mishaps and a spirited group of young men

ADMIRAL'S CALL

Welcome back Midshipmen! I hope that each of you had a great summer with lots of great experiences during summer training or freshmen orientation.

Let me first begin by saying something you should never tire of hearing: "Thank you for your service!"

You have chosen a path that is honorable and patriotic, a path that I followed many years ago at The Citadel. I was given some advice those many years ago and as your commander I'll pass that advice on to you:

First, focus on academics.

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and women excited to start the academic year.

More than 1,750 freshman students looked to join an NROTC unit this fall. Of that number more than 850 were NROTC scholarship students. Not all NROTC midshipmen are on scholarship. They are known as college program midshipmen.

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AROUND NROTC

University of Southern California

The commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet met with the NROTC Los Angeles Consortium during a visit to the University of Southern California (USC) campus, Aug. 31.

Vice Admiral Nora Tyson told midshipmen to make the most of each day in their Navy careers.

University of Wisconsin

Midshipmen from the University of Wisconsin Madison Naval ROTC program participated in Student Orientation Week at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, from Aug. 28 to Sept. 2.

The 68 midshipmen spent the week going over basic military skills and discipline necessary to succeed as commissioned officers of the Navy and Marine Corps. Twenty-two new

students also participated in a New Student Orientation (NSO), which comprised of an introduction to military life, while the rest of the Badger battalion focused on leadership training and building esprit de corps. The command's active-duty staff of Navy and Marine Corps officers and noncommissioned officers led the week's events.

University of Virginia

The recent University of Virginia NROTC NSO held on campus Aug. 14-20 was planned and conducted entirely by eight senior midshipmen in the unit.

The midshipmen were the "Troop Handlers" for the more than 25 new candidates looking to join the unit. The candidates spent the week going over basic military skills and discipline necessary to succeed as commissioned officers of the Navy and Marine Corps. The candidates were also introduced to military life, physical training, swim test, uniform inspections, military drill and weapons familiarization.

The NROTC Quarterly is an authorized production of the NSTC Public Affairs Office.

Questions regarding information published in the NROTC Quarterly or submissions should be directed to the Public Affairs Office at (847) 688-2201 or NSTC_PAO@navy.mil.

The NSTC PAO staff solicits stories, photos and ideas, which may be of interest to members of the NROTC Program.

Rear Adm. Stephen C. Evans

Commander, NSTC

Capt. Robert Fink

Deputy Commander, NSTC

Capt. Richard Wood

Director of Officer Development / NROTC Program Manager

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New Student Orientation (NSO)

This school year NROTC units around the United States participated in the new pilot NSO program. The goal of the new NSO is to combine assets and try to get the same training accomplished across all the units. NROTC units had always had a type of introductory training for incoming freshmen midshipmen and the end game is to have a standardized training across the board.

Collateral Duty PAO Handbook

NROTC units should be receiving collateral duty PAO handbooks at their units before the end of 2016. All units are required to identify a staff member that will serve as the collateral duty PAO and liaison with the NSTC PAO.

Please keep submitting stories to be included in the next quarterly newsletter.



NSO RDC Support

This year there was a shortage of senior enlisted Marines at some of the units and Recruit Division Commanders (RDCs) from RTC were sent to assist with NSO at units that lacked a senior enlisted Marine. Units at South Florida, Tulane, Maryland, Illinois and Arizona State received RDC support for their NSO.

Admiral continued from Page 1

Your academic and military performance is the cornerstones of your future in the Navy and Marine Corps. Take care of the underclassmen, especially the freshmen. Retention speaks volumes about the climate and leadership in each of your commands, and that is something each of you has the ability to control.

Next, you chose to serve our nation. Sometimes that begins with serving your shipmates. Help prevent suicides, hazing, and sexual assault. These are issues facing all students on college campuses, but you have signed up to be leaders, so start now.

I'm excited about the potential of the upcoming year, and I hope each of you is expecting great things from your unit and your experience. Ask questions, practice discipline and time management. You need to learn from both your subordinates and your leaders. These steps will help prepare you for the

Pay attention to what is happening in the world. This is the world you will inherit. The peace, the conflict, the people, they are all part of your landscape in this profession of arms that you have selected.

You have chosen a great track. Stay within the channel markers and do not be afraid to speak up when either you or your shipmate is heading towards shallow water.

Learn to support each other and you will become the next generation of great naval officers.

I hope to chat with many of you personally during the school year. That is one of my favorite parts of being your commander.

Welcome back to school. Work hard and I will see you in the fleet.

Rear Admiral Stephen C. Evans.

Commander, Naval Service Training Command

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These are students who have arrived at a university without scholarship but have signed up, or look to sign up, for Naval Science courses and would like to belong to an NROTC unit. For many college programmers who desire a career as a naval officer, they can also apply for an NROTC scholarship before their junior year.

The NSO or MOP is not a required event but is highly encouraged. There is no "failing" and there is no negative program or enrollment consequence if the orientation is not completed. It is designed for freshmen students but it can include any new unit member despite their academic year or progress since it aims to familiarize students with the NROTC unit, the Navy and Marine Corps.

There are several objectives that the NSO or MOP attempts to meet. Uniforms are issued and instruction in Navy uniform regulations and grooming standards are conducted. The new students are given instructions in basic military customs, courtesies and traditions. They are taught the organization of the Navy and of Navy commands, they are instructed in unit regulations and they are taught the chain of command for their unit and for the Navy all the way to the Commander in Chief.

The new students are instructed in basic military drill and ceremony. They must perform physical fitness and swim testing to determine readiness to meet NROTC program and Navy/Marine Corps requirements. They are also instructed in privileges and in the benefits of participation in the NROTC Program and what their individual responsibilities will be in the unit for the years with the unit.

Like other university or college freshmen, orientation is provided in other subject matter as desired by the unit and/or the university, i.e., how to use the library, availability of tutoring services, university rules and regulations.

One of the most important objectives taught throughout the week-long NSO/MOP is team work and how the Naval Services function as a team.

"I didn't know what to expect," said University of Wisconsin-Madison Midshipman 4th Class Katie Katula, from Stillwater, Minnesota, an incoming freshman. "I ended up learning so much about myself, and we became very close as a class. I'm excited for the future."

The curriculum for the week of orientation for most NROTC units included daily physical training, uniform inspections, close order drill, and classroom academics, including Navy and Marine Corps history. The midshipmen were able to use on campus training facilities and, for many units, nearby military facilities. On these facilities the units can take the students through obstacle courses, leadership reaction courses, and land navigation courses.

"My favorite part of the week was definitely the leadership reaction course," said Midshipman 4th Class Samuel Fetherston, from Ossian, Wisconsin, also an incoming freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "I really enjoyed getting to know my classmates and working together to complete the course."

According to Carter, the key to Notre Dame's NSO success was the screening, selection, and training of the upperclassmen that served as the NSO cadre. At every NROTC unit across the country the NSO/MOP is run by the upperclassmen of the unit, similar to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Each NSO/MOP training cadre is supported by unit staff Navy and Marine Corps officers and by Assisted Marine Officer Instructors (AMOI) or enlisted Marine Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs).

"They (the new midshipmen) were led by our active duty staff and a hand-selected group of 13 upper-class midshipmen," said Carter. "This core group of upperclassmen developed a strong freshman team successfully integrated into the battalion with a sense of belonging and purpose to both the Navy and University of Notre Dame."

RTC Chief Supports University of Illinois NROTC Midshipmen Orientation Program

Story by University of Illinois NROTC

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (NNS) -- University of Illinois NROTC midshipmen recently learned an important lesson to "Rely on Your Chief" during a Midshipman Orientation Program (MOP), Aug. 14-19.

During the weeklong MOP, which focuses heavily on drill, naval customs and regulations for future midshipmen, Chief Petty Officer Kevin Cragin joined the Fighting Illini NROTC staff. Cragin is a recruit division commander (RDC) at Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Great Lakes. He helped train and show midshipmen, especially the new midshipmen just joining the unit, one piece of advice given to a newly-commissioned officer about to enter the fleet is to rely on the chief.

"When they get to the fleet, they (junior officers) are expected to lead by example," said Cragin. "I hope my training and my advice showed them that there will be others they can turn to, like their division or department chiefs, to help them lead."

According to the unit, despite being some of the most knowledgeable resources available to future junior officers, it is a rarity for junior officers to interact with senior enlisted personnel prior to commissioning. This unique opportunity arose within the unit due to a small gap in the turnover of the assistant Marine option instructor (AMOI) during the MOP.

During MOP, a midshipman training staff relies heavily on the AMOI for advice and expertise throughout the week. In the absence of an AMOI, the staff sought out an RDC from the Navy's only boot camp to fill in the training gap.

"Chief Cragin's contribution to the orientation program instruction in basic military customs, courtesies, traditions, and organization, as well as team work and drill competency proved superlative," said Capt. Chris Moore, University of Illinois professor of Naval Science and NROTC commanding officer. "A consummate professional and exceptional ambassador for the talent embodied in the RDC cadre, Chief Cragin delivered tangible contributions to the professional development of midshipmen candidates and upperclassmen alike. With or without an AMOI, this is definitely an initiative that UI NROTC will do again."

A 14-year Navy veteran, Cragin is responsible for turning civilians into Sailors who are ready to join the fleet. Just as he does at RTC, Cragin was able to impart his knowledge of basic seamanship, close order drill, and physical fitness to the freshmen students who looked to become midshipmen and join the Fighting Illini Battalion.

"Chief Cragin was a valuable member of the MOP staff," said Midshipman 4th Class Evan Kiphart, a freshman from Dalzell, Illinois. "Whether he was helping with proper uniform



preparation, close order drill or providing general knowledge on life in the fleet, Chief Cragin ensured that we had the fundamentals on which to build a strong foundation as aspiring officers."

Many of the unit's more senior midshipmen who were on the MOP training staff agreed Cragin was an asset to the orientation for the 25 incoming midshipmen.

"Chief was very helpful during our orientation program," said Midshipman 1st Class Robert Schultz, a senior from Champaign, Illinois. "He was extremely flexible and attended nearly every evolution during the week. He not only helped instruct the freshmen, but the midshipmen staff as well. Having a senior enlisted Sailor around gave us insight on how to be a leader, as well as motivated us towards our upcoming careers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps."

Many on the MOP training staff said Chief Cragin's wealth of knowledge allowed the Fighting Illini NROTC Battalion to excel during the MOP. All 25 new freshmen are now midshipmen and have joined the UI NROTC unit.

"It was great to have Chief Cragin here from Great Lakes," said Midshipman 2nd Class Austin Gregson, a junior from Columbia, Illinois. "Even as an instructor during the MOP, I learned more about professional conduct from the chief while training the midshipmen candidates. It was important to have a perspective from an enlisted Sailor, which is something many NROTC units never experience."

Cragin said the MOP is a great program and good introduction to the new midshipmen.

"The first and second class midshipmen ran the program and they were very professional," said Cragin. "They definitely owned their position of making sure the candidates would be ready to join the unit and ready to enter a military life. I was glad to be part of the training and would definitely do it again."

NROTC Returns to Brown

Story by Michael F. Miller, NSTC Public Affairs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (NNS) -- The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and the president of Brown University held a ceremony at Sayles Hall on campus Sept. 16, restoring participation in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program at Brown University.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin R. Parker and Brown University President Christina Paxson were joined by university officials, military service members and local community leaders at the ceremony to formally bring back NROTC to the campus for the first time in more than 40 years.

"Today, I am proud to join Sen. Reed, President Paxson, Brig. Gen. Garland and Capt. Wood as we formally recognize the return of an on-campus Naval ROTC presence here at Brown University," said Parker. "It's an honor to be on this beautiful campus and meet with such a diverse, international and academically renowned group of professors and students."

Parker added, "This is a great partnership for the Navy and Brown University. The Naval ROTC program will enrich the Brown University experience, and the gifted students from Brown's ROTC program will make our military and nation stronger."

The agreement, announced in July 2015, paved the way for the first scholarship students to be assigned for the Fall semester of 2016. Under the agreement, the NROTC program will have a cross-enrollment partnership with the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. where the NROTC host unit is located.



Brown students should have every opportunity to serve their country," said Paxson. "It is time for Brown to expand ROTC opportunities for students. This is consistent with everything we do to prepare students to lead consequential lives."

The NROTC program was originally established in 1940 before closing in 1971.

"Bringing NROTC back to Brown will continue the fine tradition of the university supporting the military since the Revolutionary War," said Navy Capt. Mark Edwards, commanding officer of the Holy Cross NROTC unit.

"I could not be prouder of the strengthened ties between Brown University and the Armed Forces," said Paxson. "With these new agreements in place, Brown may once again offer this exceptional option for service, and a unique pathway to character, leadership and lives of consequence."

Morehouse College NROTC Unveils New Facility

Story by Michael F. Miller, NSTC Public Affairs

ATLANTA (NNS) -- The Naval ROTC unit at Morehouse College held a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new facility on campus, Aug. 31.

The new facility, White Hall, is being billed as a Military Center of Excellence that provides office space for all ROTC military staffs; dorm rooms for midshipmen, cadets, and military affiliated students; a computer lab and lounge.

Morehouse College President John Silvanus Wilson Jr.; Rear Adm. Stephen C. Evans, commander, Naval Service Training Command; and Navy Capt. Baron V. Reinhold, commanding officer, NROTC Atlanta Consortium, were joined at the ceremony by university officials, NROTC staff and midshipmen and guests in the courtyard next to White Hall.

"What an amazing day; I am impressed and honored to take part in this great ceremony," said Evans.



"This building is impressive and I thank President Wilson for his dedication to the NROTC unit here at Morehouse."

"I want this program to go from the margins of the periphery of the campus in a trailer to the center of the campus in a brick house and that's what we are celebrating today," said Wilson. "What motivated me to give the order to converge our team to get from where we were to where we are now is the alignment of our values. I want to elevate this program just like I am trying to elevate this institution."

For years the unit had been located in a mobile building off the campus grounds. In the past year it became a priority to find a space back on campus for the NROTC unit.

"During an office call with Rear Adm. Evans last year, President Wilson pledged to get this unit back on campus as soon as feasibly possible and 10 months later, here we are," said Reinhold. "This building is the hub and will continue to be the hub of military excellence on campus for years to come."

The ceremony closed with a cake cutting and tours of the facility for all in attendance.

NROTC was established at Morehouse College in 1987 after initially standing up at Morris Brown College as a cross-town to Georgia Institute of Technology. The Morehouse College unit is part of a consortium with the NROTC unit at Georgia Tech. A NROTC consortium is formed when two or more host units are located geographically close to one another. NROTC courses and professional instruction will be held on both campuses, however the units may share resources as the Navy and Marine Corps deem appropriate, in order to maximize available funds and promote program consistency.

Photos around NROTC



ARABIAN GULF - Midshipmen shoot at targets on the port side flight deck elevator during an M-9 pistol qualification course aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) as part of summer training. Midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy and the NROTC are aboard Boxer for a summer training cruise to learn more about the Navy and their future careers. Boxer is the flagship for the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and, with the embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.



SAN DIEGO - Instructors from the Mission Bay Aquatic Center outline the sailing path that midshipmen from the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) will follow during a sailing exercise. The NROTC program was established in 1926 to provide young men and women leadership skills that will follow them throughout their Navy careers.



CAMP NAVAJO, Ariz. - Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Jason Dow, the assistant Marine officer instructor with the University of Arizona NROTC unit, instructs his platoon of freshman midshipman candidates how to make a military rack in their squad bay during joint NSO training at Camp Navajo, Arizona. The weeklong NSO training took place Aug. 12-19 at both Camp Navajo, Arizona, alongside two other university NROTC units, and at The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.



NEWPORT, R.I. - Midshipman 1st Class Alex Misenheimer and an incoming senior of the Old Dominion University NROTC unit, virtually cons a ship out of port during the 2016 NROTC National Ship-handler of the Year competition at the Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS). The three-day event consisted of using the Naval Seamanship & Shiphandling Comming Officer Virtual Environment (NSS COVE) simulators at SWOS and participating in several virtual reality comming and ship driving scenarios. More than 10 midshipmen from NROTC units across the country competed to be named Ship-handler of the Year.



FORT MCCOY, Wis. - University of Wisconsin Madison Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Midshipman 4th Class Tyler Walters and Midshipman 4th Class Zachary Schramm work together to conquer an obstacle at the Volk Field Leadership Reaction Course. More than 65 midshipmen from the U-W Madison NROTC unit participated in their annual student orientation week including 22 new students looking to join the unit.



Quantico, Va. - Two NROTC midshipmen help another midshipmen on the obstacle course at Marine Officer Candidates School (OCS). Marine option midshipmen must attend Marine Corps OCS during the summer of their junior and senior year in order to complete the requirement to be commissioned a Marine Corps officer.

NROTC Midshipmen Compete to Become Shipandler of the Year

Story by Scott Thornbloom, NSTC Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. -- Naval ROTC Midshipman 3rd Class Jackson Herget from Sacramento, California, was named the 2016 NROTC National Shipandler of the Year at the Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) in Newport, Rhode Island, Aug. 11.

Herget, an incoming sophomore at the University of San Diego, competed against 12 other midshipmen from NROTC units across the country in the first shiphandling competition for midshipmen on Naval Seamanship and Shiphandling Conning Officer Virtual Environment (NSS COVE) simulators at SWOS.

"I'm really grateful for the opportunity to come here and learn about the surface warfare community," said Herget. "I learned a lot on the simulators the first day and I was able to apply the concepts in training. The staff did a great job teaching us and giving us advice and personal tips they learned and used in the fleet. I'm really grateful to have received this award."

According to the Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR), NSS COVE is a system of scalable, reconfigurable, PC-based simulators, offering an immersive virtual reality maritime training environment. They provide the full continuum of navigation, seamanship, shiphandling, piloting, and tactical ATFP (anti-terrorism/force protection) training for naval personnel.

Originally conceived in 2000 by ONR's Research and Development (R&D) effort, COVE has evolved into a robust and extensible shiphandling simulator, primarily used at SWOS for junior and senior surface warfare officers at Naval Station Newport. NROTC midshipmen have now also been added to the mix of COVE players.

Capt. Heedong Choi, professor of Naval Science and NROTC commanding officer at State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College in Throggs Neck, New York, and former chief of staff at Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), was on hand representing the NSTC commander at the unique, first competition for NROTC midshipmen. He welcomed the midshipmen to the competition and handed out the winner's plaque and trophy on the final day of competition.

"The admiral wanted me to relay (to you) that we are committed to giving you the experience and training to make you leaders and officers worthy of leading our best and brightest Sailors," Choi said. "This is a time to demonstrate what you have learned and go back to your units; tell your shipmates about this. Tell them about SWOS and what you learned here and generate excitement for this competition."

The competition for the midshipmen was set up over four days. The first two days were hands-on training with COVE and classroom study and lectures.

On the first day the midshipmen were brought onto one of two Full Mission Bridge simulators. The Full Mission Bridge simulates every Navy homeport and regular ports the Navy visits around the world. This simulator was not part of the competition, but gave the midshipmen a chance to observe and feel the operations of the bridge with its 360-degree virtual reality monitor and realistic consoles and instrumentation. The Full Mission Bridge also provides a working helm, powering performance as well as propulsion performance, taking cavitation and noise requirements into account. It also can simulate weather and wave conditions. The midshipmen also got an opportunity to feel the steering ability and ship and platform motions of the bridge.



"The COVE allows students to gain familiarity and a significant degree of comfort on the bridge conning and handling a ship," said Capt. Neil A. Karnes, professor of Naval Science and NROTC commanding officer of the Jacksonville University unit in Jacksonville, Florida. "It's a first step into making their way into the SWO community. It's an excellent tool and has a lot to offer. Hopefully the midshipmen will come away with some experience with the SWO center of excellence at SWOS and a greater appreciation for the SWO community."

For the competition, the midshipmen were given a Rules of the Road/Shiphandling/Basic Seamanship 50-question exam. They each were then placed into one of 18 COVE 1 stations. Midshipmen wore virtual reality headsets and were assigned as the conning officer on a bridge of an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer. With the virtual reality headsets the midshipmen could look anywhere, port or starboard, forward and astern and it would be as if they were looking out the windows on a bridge or standing on a bridge wing. The midshipmen would then call out a series of maneuvering orders for the engine room and helm. Each midshipman practiced conning their "ship" doing this through several different scenarios; pulling away from a dock with the use of a tugboat in San Diego harbor, driving the ship off the coast of San Diego, pulling next to a Navy oiler for an underway replenishment and maneuvering the ship during a man overboard drill. They were then tested on what they learned and practiced.

"It's one thing to go to the wardroom at ODU (Old Dominion University) and get on the COVE we have there, but to do it here [at SWOS] surrounded by all these great instructors and these other midshipmen is a great experience and a great opportunity," said Midshipman 1st Class Alex Misenheimer, from Falls Church, Virginia, and an incoming senior at ODU.

After the exam and testing on COVE 1, the SWOS instructors tallied up points and named five finalists. On the final day, the five finalists were taken into a COVE 3 station. The COVE 3 stations have the same functionality as the COVE 1 stations, except they are viewed on three 50-inch displays to allow the student a wider field of view. Again they were tested and scored on their conning of the ship from the dock and into San Diego Harbor, and how well they maneuvered the ship during an underway replenishment.

NROTC Midshipmen Experience Marine Training

Story by Scott Thornbloom, NSTC Public Affairs

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (NNS) -- Every summer thousands of Naval ROTC midshipmen take part in summer training programs on Navy and Marine Corps bases around the country.

The midshipmen, from NROTC units at universities throughout the United States, participate in the Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) program. CORTRAMID is a four-week summer event for midshipmen entering their second year of college as part of their school's NROTC unit. The training is set up for the midshipmen to rotate, on a weekly basis, around Marine Corps bases such as Camp Pendleton, California, or Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; or naval stations in San Diego and Norfolk to see what it could be like working aboard a ship or submarine, flying in a plane or jet or operating with a Marine unit. CORTRAMID is also held on Marine Corps bases in South Carolina and other Navy bases in Virginia, Georgia and Florida.

Midshipmen entering their junior or senior year of college with a NROTC unit also get the opportunity to participate in training aboard Navy ships, submarines, and with Navy air squadrons. Midshipmen second class are paired with an enlisted Sailor to see the daily routine of the enlisted ranks during their stay on a ship, sub or with a aviation unit. Midshipmen first class are paired with a junior officer and the wardroom to learn what will be expected of them when they get to the fleet. Junior and senior Marine-option midshipmen attend Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.

More than 500 Marine- and Navy-option midshipmen toured Camp Pendleton areas and Marine Corps units during the summer. The midshipmen were broken into four groups of more than 130 for their one-week Marine Corps familiarization and training.



"We expose midshipmen to the Marine Corps during the week," said Marine Capt. Matthew Davis, a Marine officer instructor at Marquette University in Milwaukee and the 2016 operations officer for Marine Week CORTRAMID at Camp Pendleton. "We reveal how Marines train and also display the culture of the Marine Corps. Really we try to show the midshipmen how the Marine Corps trains and the many different MOSs (military occupational specialties), or jobs, there are in the Marine Corps."

During their one-week visits to Camp Pendleton or Camp Lejeune, midshipmen observed Marine aviation units, infantry and supply units, and got a chance to meet several Marine Corps enlisted personnel and officers in various MOS fields. They also were given the opportunity to watch armored tracked vehicles conduct live-fire exercises and participate in firing many of the Marine Corps' weapons such as side arms, different machine guns, sniper rifles and grenade launchers.

Camp Pendleton midshipmen also spent an overnight stay at Marine Corps Base Pendleton's Infantry Immersion Trainer (IIT). The trainer is set to look like a village in the Middle East with streets, buildings and markets. Similar to walking through a paintball playing field, the midshipmen were given different scenarios to complete during their two-day stay at IIT. They worked at clearing rooms of houses and shops that had virtual reality enemies, walked down streets defending against and hunting down live snipers, and guarded against improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in a mock-up of a market.

"We go through a lot of planning for Marine Week," said Marine Col. Michael J. Gough, professor of naval science and commanding officer of the University of Colorado Boulder NROTC unit, as well as officer-in-charge of Marine Weeks for CORTRAMID West. "Here at Camp Pendleton I think we got exactly what we wanted to get out of Marine Week. We wanted the midshipmen to get an orientation of the Marine Corps, and understand the Marine Corps culture and see Marines."

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Marines continued,

That was our number one goal -- to get the midshipmen in front of the Marines, especially enlisted Marines, they will have to lead in the future."

Marine-option Midshipman 3rd Class Mitch DiLorenzo, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a sophomore at the University of San Diego said he based his knowledge of the Marine Corps infantry off of movies.

"Being in the trainer (IIT) got my heart pumping and adrenaline going," said DiLorenzo. "This training and orientation was very important to me, because it showed me what I can expect when I get here after graduating and being promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps."

Other midshipmen, both Marine- and Navy-option, felt Marine Week was very informative.

"It was a lot of fun going through Marine Week," said Navy-option Midshipman 1st Class Mark Foreman, from Sacramento, California, and a senior at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. "It was cool to see how the Marine Corps operates. You don't get to see a lot of the Marine Corps being a Navy-option midshipman. It taught me a lot about the Marine Corps culture and their activities."

"I think it was a phenomenal opportunity to be here at Camp Pendleton during Marine Week," said Marine-option Midshipman 3rd Class Kiri Guldner, from Phoenix, and a sophomore at the University of Colorado Boulder. "If I could, I'd make everyone come and do this. It was incredible team-building, and it teaches life skills just being here and toughens you out mentally."

After going through Marine Week, Marine-option Midshipman 3rd Class Jasmine Scott, from Detroit, and a sophomore at Iowa State University said, "Can I be commissioned tomorrow, please? It definitely will help us as we look forward to attending OCS. Ultimately I like that we got to sleep outside, got to shoot at each other (paint guns) and



were able to have leadership evaluations, and were given the chance to lead a squad."

One of the other opportunities the midshipmen received was meeting and listening to different Marine Corps flag officers. During their orientation at Camp Pendleton, the midshipmen heard from Commanding General of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Lt. Gen. David H. Berger. Berger visited the midshipman at IIT and talked about leadership, serving the Marines and Sailors they will soon command, serving their parents and serving the country.

"Serving in the military is a privilege, an honor," he said. "One, because of serving the nation, but two, really, truly, is about serving the Marines, serving the Sailors. That's a privilege. When the country gives you their treasured souls to train and lead, when a Mom gives you their 18-year-old, that's a huge responsibility."

Berger, a 1981 Tulane University graduate and former NROTC midshipman, said he had a blast going through CORTRAMID. "I have learned since then that every Marine is an infantry man and no matter what technology, planes or electronic warfare there is, the last hundred meters requires a human being to close that gap against an adversary; and in that moment is when a leader steps up," added Berger.

What's going on at your unit? Please send us stories, photos and video to help continue to market your units and the program.

The NROTC program, overseen by Rear Adm. Stephen C. Evans, commander, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., was established to develop midshipmen mentally, morally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, loyalty and Navy core values. Once the college graduates are commissioned as Naval officers, they will possess a basic professional background, will be motivated toward careers in the naval service and have a potential for future development in mind and character so as to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government.

NSTC oversees 98 percent of initial officer and enlisted accessions training for the Navy, as well as the Navy's Citizenship Development program. NSTC includes Recruit Training Command (RTC), NROTC units at more than 160 colleges and universities, Officer Training Command (OTC) at Naval Station Newport, R. I., and Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) and Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) citizenship development programs at more than 600 high schools worldwide.

For more information about NROTC, visit <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil/>. For more information about NSTC, visit <http://www.netc.navy.mil/nstc/> or visit the NSTC Facebook pages at <https://www.facebook.com/NavalServiceTraining/>.

For more news from Naval Service Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/greatlakes/.