



# The Conn

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## CO's Call

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What a great semester we have had! I am continually amazed at the outstanding things you young men and women do. The outstanding leadership and excellent overall performance you have demonstrated is a direct result of your hard work and dedication. In the Fall of 2011 you set up an outstanding New Student Orientation, directed the stadium seat installation, continued your success at the Drill competition in Wisconsin and son-to-be success in Memphis, and the 236 Mile Run and Veterans Day/Birthday Ball events. The winter semester led the way with the creation of the drill speaker program to explore other career options within the Naval Service, the expansion of Bull Dog Prep to include four schools and PLC candidates, the Tri-Service Ball and outstanding performance at the Memphis Drill Meet. Along the way, the continued outstanding performance of the Color Guard at the Football and Basketball games as well as the many pop-up events ensures you have much to be proud of as you look back at all your accomplishments. Oh, by the way, all this success was achieved while you earned the highest combined GPA in battalion history. I'm very proud of ALL of you!!!

To the 2012 Commissionees:

When we all arrived here at Michigan in September 2008, the goals we set were pretty straightforward: you told me your goals were to graduate and receive a commission. I then informed you my goals were to give you time and experience to enable you to achieve your goals, and at the same time, provide to you a foundation of knowledge and tools to enable you to become the next generation of leaders for our Navy and Marine Corps. After four years of close observation, I firmly believe that we have indeed achieved our goals.

As a class you have achieved tremendous success but this is just the tip of the iceberg. Your education and experiences here will serve as an outstanding base to build your career on. Remember the commitment is reciprocal. To you, we are entrusting the lives of the country's most precious resource...the young men and women who have volunteered to be led by you! I am confident you are ready to and eminently qualified for that honor and I look forward to hearing about your continued successes.

I wish you all Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Captain Vanden Heuvel

## Farewell CDR Gavin

### FAREWELL TO THE MICHIGAN BATTALION:

Captain, Staff, OC's, MECEPS, and Midshipmen of the Michigan Battalion, I would like to thank you all for the honor and privilege of being able to serve with you for the past 2 ½ years! As you will all do in your careers, when it is your time to leave a command, you will always say that this tour was your best. As I leave this tour, I will not be the exception. Every tour you have will be different. All will have challenges, high and low points, successes and failures, and happy and sad times. The most important thing is that you learn from each tour.

After just short of 25 years of commissioned service, 4 years of active enlisted service, 5 years of enlisted reserve service, ships company tours on 8 ships, 3 tours on Inspection Teams visiting well over a hundred more, and numerous other commands, you would think I have seen it all and know everything there is to know about the Navy. This tour has been no exception to the rule of learning. I have learned that in a career spanning over 35 years that young men and women join the service for the same reasons I did back in 1976. That the staff you have serving you are exceptional role models. That working with our service partners helps build camaraderie and helps you to get a start on the Joint environment. And last, that working with you all has helped keep me feeling young, if only in order to keep up with Callahan on our hikes.

I would like to leave with you some points I believe will help you in your career endeavors, military and civilian:

- Maintain Situational Awareness:
  - Of yourself. Where you are with Qualifications and Professional Development
  - Of your people. Where they are with their Qualifications and Professional Development
  - Your surroundings. What is required of your Division, now, short and long-term
  - Tactical. What is your Command doing now, short and long-term to do its mission
  - Strategic. What is going on in the world. How it affects your command, life, family
- Know your job:
  - Professional. Know your equipment and what your people do
  - Tactical. What is your command doing and what do you need to do to support it
  - Strategic. How does your command fit into the fight with other units, AOR, Joint
- Do YOUR job to the best of your ability:
  - Go back to all the above
  - Do not worry about what your peers are doing, especially the slackers. Good performance will always be recognized by your followers, peers, and leaders
  - Emulate all the good traits of Followers, Peers, and Leaders, discard the bad
- TAKE CARE OF YOUR PEOPLE:
  - Your people are who make your career, without them, you are not a Leader. If they fail it is because you failed as a Leader. Some will say there are the 10% who will never succeed no matter what you do, but if you do not do your best to try to help them, then you have failed
  - Push them to their professional limits and then some



*CDR Timothy Gavin,  
USN (Ret.)*

*“Every tour you have will be different. All will have challenges, high and low points, successes and failures, and happy and sad times. The most important thing is that you learn from each tour.”*

- Ensure their families are taken care of. We are not trained counselors, but go the extra mile to find out where they can get help
- Take care of your boss:
  - He/She signs your FITREP or has an input into it
  - Anytime you let your boss down, you should be at the lowest emotional state you can be because you failed the person who put their trust in you
- BE YOURSELF:
  - Look for desirable traits of your Followers, Peers, and Leaders and use them. Do not try to be someone else, but always look to improve yourself.
- Be honest:
  - You have or will take the CO’s Ethics course. Pay attention. The Navy and Marine Corps Times are splashed almost every week with a story of dirtbags who demonstrated unethical and in some cases illegal behavior. There is no checklist for behavior to follow. It is in our psychological makeup. Trust can be earned over a thousand times and lost permanently in an instant. Honesty and integrity are what separates good officers from bad.

In closing, it has been a privilege to serve you and serve with you. Good luck in your futures.

CDR Timothy Gavin, USN (Ret.)  
UM NROTC Executive Officer, 2009-2012



## Tri Service Ball

This year's Tri-Service Ball was an excellent opportunity for MIDN and CDTs to meet and learn about the other services they will be serving with. Too often students at North Hall are occupied with classes and their own Unit's obligations to interact with one another at the level they should be. Any Tri-Service event is an eye-opening experience to learn about other military cultures.



Due to the high level of cooperation needed between all branches, the Tri-Service Ball committee is made up of Cadets from the Air Force and Army as well as a Naval Midshipman. Every student on a detail had a large amount of interaction with other branches. It was a great experience to see MIDN teaching CDTs how to drill with more intensity and conduct themselves with proper bearing and CDTs taking that experience back to their units.

Personally, I took away a great amount of knowledge about CDTs in both the Army and Air Force. Learning about the way their units are organized and operate, and then dealing with challenges these differing operational structures provide, was a rewarding experience that I hope to have more of in the future. With all the branches of our country's military becoming ever more connected in operation, I am thankful for the position planning the ball put me in and the opportunity it gave all CDTs and MIDN involved to become more learned in the culture of their sister services.

We were very grateful to have the former Secretary of the Navy, Dr. Donald Winter, as our Guest of Honor. Many students were able to see a lecture he gave on the current and future operations of the Navy a few days prior to the event. Dr. Winter is currently a Professor of Engineering Practice for the department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at the University of Michigan's College of Engineering, putting him in a fortunate position to mold the minds of many students who will provide the future of the Navy's ship systems.



MIDN 2/C Lindsay

## Outstanding 4/C

MIDN Duggan has been a standout 4/C all year and has fully integrated himself to be a valued member of Michigan's Naval ROTC program. As a member of Bravo 2, he has demonstrated his innate leadership abilities as a squad leader and Webmaster LPO. He involves himself in many extracurricular activities while remaining a studious Mechanical Engineering major. He was a member of the Endurance Team that traveled to Memphis, Ball set up, Cake Detail, CC Cross country, IM Broomball, swimming, and wallyball, and received the WWII Society Tri-Service award. He also took time to help his fellow MIDN swim in order to master their swim quals. To top it all off, he found time to volunteer at the VA Hospital. MIDN Duggan is locked on but personable, and he sets a great example for MIDN of all classes to follow. I am excited to see what he does with his billet as Platoon Sergeant in the fall.

→ MIDN 3/C Hayes

MIDN 4/C Millard did an excellent job as Charlie Company's guide for the Winter 2012 semester. He displayed initiative and enthusiasm in the execution of his billet responsibilities. Twice he was able, on short notice, to run the platoon as acting platoon sergeant. He has emerged as a leader within his class and consistently sets an example for others to follow. His positive attitude and unit involvement are an inspiration to his fellow midshipmen. He was an integral part of the Bulldog Prep chow crew, and represented the unit on the platoon and squad drill teams at the Beale Street Drill Meet. He is also being considered for next year's Squad Drill Commander. In addition to his efforts within the battalion and the classroom, he volunteers his time with the Civil Air Patrol, serving as a mentor to younger children and working to prepare them for college. MIDN Millard has been named the Fall 2012 Charlie Company platoon sergeant. I have every expectation that he will excel in this and all his future battalion endeavors, and I look forward to seeing him continue to grow as a leader.

- MIDN 3/C Skorina

## Winter 2012 Battalion Staff

Bn CO	MIDN 1/C Trabert	Safety	MIDN 2/C Hague
Bn XO	MIDN 1/C Kilber	Alpha Co CO	MIDN 1/C Schmitz
Bn Ops O	MIDN 1/C O'Neill	Alpha 1 Platoon CO	MIDN 2/C Huston
A OPS	MIDN 3/C Gerson	Alpha 1 Platoon Sergeant	MIDN 3/C Gezon
Bn Sergeant Major	MIDN 1/C Schaffer	Alpha 2 Platoon CO	MIDN 2/C Van Gilder
Admin	MIDN 1/C Zacek	Alpha 1 Platoon Sergeant	MIDN 3/C Best
Supply	MIDN 2/C Ragsdale	Bravo Co CO	OC Avery
Academics	MIDN 2/C Nam	Bravo 1 Platoon CO	MIDN 2/C Nguy
Color Guard	MIDN 2/C Newman	Bravo 1 Platoon Sergeant	MIDN 3/C Lascola
Drill Team	MIDN 2/C A. Powell	Bravo 2 Platoon CO	MIDN 2/C Dodge
PAO	MIDN 2/C Collins	Bravo 2 Platoon Sergeant	MIDN 3/C Hayes
Alumni/Historian	OC Larson	Charlie Co CO	MIDN 1/C Goodwin
Recruiting	MIDN 3/C Marshall	Charlie Platoon CO	Sgt Lebrun
Pelorus/Conn	MIDN 1/C Ross	Charlie Platoon Sergeant	MIDN 3/C Skorina

## Tri-Service Awards

The Tri-Service Awards Ceremony is an annual event in which cadets and midshipmen from the three ROTC branches, Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps, are recognized for their achievements in academics, leadership, and community affairs. About 400 ROTC students, veterans, faculty and family members attended the ceremony in Rackham Auditorium. Forty-four different organizations handed out more than 125 awards and scholarships to outstanding students of the three branches.

The ceremony took place on 3 April 2012 and featured opening remarks from Lt. Col. Allana

Bryant of the U.S. Army and guest speaker Col. Graydon Krapohl of the U.S. Marine Corps. Col. Krapohl emphasized the importance of the three branches of the Armed Forces working jointly together, both at home and abroad. The cadets and midshipmen could not have reflected his words better with their professionalism and smooth turn-out of the event. Those who received awards represent the continuing stride towards excellence that should be looked upon by their peers as an example to live up to.

- MIDN 3/C Raftshol



*“Those who received awards represent the continuing stride towards excellence that should be looked upon by their peers as an example to live up to.”*

# Bulldog Prep



Bulldog prep is vital for pre-OCS candidates. It is a field exercise unlike any other. This year we hosted BDP at Ft. Custer with 70 candidates from Notre Dame, Miami of Ohio, Wisconsin and the Ann Arbor Officer Selection Office. The midshipman staff had their hands full with their first time planning an evolution this big. The weekend kicked off with the departure from North Hall at 0900 on a Friday morning. The atmosphere was relaxed as everyone got out their last laughs as we stopped at Old Country Buffet for lunch. Upon the arrival at Ft. Custer, the staff changed into MARPAT while the candidates waited,

and waited. The tension started to grow tighter at the initial gear check when MIDN Malenfant took over with the help of the other troop handling staff. Even though we were not the main instructors, a switch flicked from peers to being called MIDN all weekend.



With the arrival of the AMOIs, the weekend kicked into full gear. Events such as the PFT, CFT, Day and Night Navigation, SULE (Small Unit Leadership Exercise), and a few exams all created for the real life experience that OCS will be. The exhaustion from lack of sleep had the candidates running on everything they had. When it came to the big events, the student staff handled those. Even though this is only a slight emulation of what OCS is like, we still wanted a learning environment. There were candidates of all levels there and this was their time to learn. We took time out of land nav where they could ask us questions without hesitation. This insured that they were being

properly trained as well as the staff getting experience with training candidates with the knowledge that possess. You could see the candidates growing each day. The leadership and confidence of everyone showed, especially at the Leadership Reaction Course. It was an experience not only the pre-OCS will never forget, but the post-OCS as well. As we commission in the coming months, this was an evolution that allowed us to figure things out on our own. The little bumps we hit in the planning process as well as the actual evolution made us all better at adapting to whatever came along. With more than 15 post-OCS MIDN and Marines, we were able to successfully train and prepare the candidates for an evaluation in their near future.

(Oh, and the chow was fantastic. We could never have done it without MIDN Zacek and the mess crew.)

- MIDN 1/C Kilber



*“You could see the candidates growing each day. The leadership and confidence of everyone showed...”*

# Memphis Drill Meet

## Drill

The drill team attended their most competitive drill meet of the year at the University of Memphis. The drill team was given 3rd place for the platoon drill team and for the squad drill team, and the University of Michigan unit placed 2nd overall amongst the 20 schools that were in attendance. The 15-member platoon team was led by MIDN 2/c Powell and the 6-member squad team was led by MIDN 3/c Lippie. Practices for the competition were held two mornings a week for six weeks, during which the members of the drill team received invaluable instruction from many of the battalion's experienced members.

Bravo Zulu to everyone who was involved in the competition, and congratulations to the drill team for placing 3rd!

- MIDN 3/C Lippie



## Color Guard



After driving through the night down to Memphis, TN, the University of Michigan drill teams were primed and ready to compete. The color guard practiced briefly on Friday to test the effects of the wind since the flags would be carried outside. Saturday came, and the teams stood ready in the warm and sunny Tennessee weather. The color guard performed an immaculate card. The only major error was being pushed out of bounds by lack of space. Even so, the color guard was praised for crisp, sharp movement and excellent bearing.

The Color Guard consisted of MIDN Buday and MIDN Lindsay as rifle bearers, MIDN Abbott as Navy colors, Sgt Whitney as Marine colors, and commanded by MIDN Newman carrying the National Ensign. The lack of a 1st place color guard trophy for the 2011-2012 school year means only one thing: come next year, Michigan is coming for the win!

- MIDN 2/C Abbott

## Rifle/Pistol Team

The professionalism and teamwork displayed by the Rifle/Pistol teams during the Memphis Drill Meet upheld the continuing tradition of quality for the University of Michigan. Unity is an excellent term to describe the team's cohesion. As the Rifle A team started the competition off with a "bang" I noticed the support from the rest of the team. They sat or stood in the background, providing silent encore, or in my case, a fresh supply of band-aids due to an unfortunate meeting with a broken rifle sling.

In regards to the Pistol team, the 1st place finish can be traced back to the competitive selection which is required to make the team. Each one of them rose to the competition and performed exceedingly well under the pressure. The team's outstanding performance earned them a winning spot, but more importantly, put Ohio State in the one place they should stand; right behind University of Michigan.

- MIDN 2/C Lang

### Sailing Team

When we pulled up to the lake that Saturday I knew it was going to be a good day. The wind was really ripping at about 25 MPH with gusts up to 35 MPH. We were all really excited to get out on the water because we knew we would be moving fast. We rigged up our two Lasers and started to sail our heats. Everyone did an amazing job! Especially considering we only had one practice as a team, which for two members of our team, was the first time they had ever sailed.

At the end of the day they took our two fastest times and combined them together. We ended up coming in third in our division! We were all really excited and I know that next year we'll get that first place trophy.

- MIDN 1/C Buss



### Endurance Team

The Endurance Team Competition is a very physically and mentally challenging race. Everyone worked very hard and began training at the beginning of the semester to prepare for this competition. Originally, we started with three male teams but due to injury/illness and other circumstances only two teams competed. MIDN Dodenhoff, MIDN Skorina, MIDN Buss and MIDN Beaudet could not compete but it is important to recognize their efforts as they invested a significant amount of time training with us. MIDN Dodge and MIDN Follibout should also be recognized for their motivation and willingness to step in at the last minute.

In total the race was a little over 13 miles with a number of events along the way. To prepare for the start of the race we laid out our boots, utes, and LBV's beforehand to make our transition out of wet PT gear as fast as possible. The

first event was a Keep In Memory (KIM) game. We ran to a large tarp on the ground with a variety of items spread out on top. Some of the items were playing cards, crayons, almonds, toy soldiers, etc. We would be asked questions about the items on the tarp after the race. We tried to split the tarp into quadrants and assigned a team member to memorize each area. After two minutes we ran a ¼ mile to the lake, swam 600m in PT gear, and ran a ¼ mile back to the starting point. We then quickly changed into our dry gear and completed 25 log situps. The next event was a 1.7 mile log run followed by 25 more log situps. A 1.1 mile run was our transition to the buddy carry station. There, each member had to complete a 100m fireman carry, 50m buddy drag, and 25m belt drag. Then we ran another 2 miles to the sandbag run. We picked up three 25 lb sandbags and ran 2.4 miles. We followed this run with a 2.4 mile transition run to the pullup station. As a team we completed 200 pullups. After this station we ran 2.5 miles to the ammo can maneuver course. The course consisted of one team member completing 30 ammo can presses and then carrying an additional ammo can through a zigzag pattern for 25m, straight 25m, and then returning with a 50m sprint to the finish. Meanwhile, the other three team members were required to build a house/hold the leaning rest position. All four members cycled through the course. We ran the final 0.4 miles to the ropes where one team member had to complete one rope climb. The final event was the KIM game quiz in which we were asked 10 questions about the items on the tarp.

Myself, MIDN Goodwin, MIDN Haberer, and MIDN Laurion were on the A team and took 1<sup>st</sup> place. MIDN Duggan, MIDN Irwin, MIDN Lang, and MIDN Wilcox were on the B team and took 4<sup>th</sup> place. Overall this competition is definitely a team event and we all worked together to push each other before and during the competition.

- MIDN 4/C Huff

## Commander's Cup & IM Sports

The University of Michigan NROTC Battalion was once again involved in a multitude of Intramural Sports along with the Commander's Cup competition with Air Force and Army ROTC this year. This semester the battalion participated in IM Broomball, Wallyball, Dodgeball, and Water Polo. Navy has established itself as a perennial powerhouse in the IM Water Polo community, once again making it to the championship game. In addition, Navy ROTC posted outstanding numbers in IM Dodgeball, going undefeated during the regular season. While Navy ROTC was less impressive in Broomball and Wallyball, the battalion enjoyed the camaraderie that team sports provide.

This year the battalion continued the tradition of



competing against Army and Air Force in the sports of football, basketball, soccer, softball, and cross country, with the winning branch taking home the coveted Commander's Cup trophy at the end of the year. After an undefeated season in soccer and a .500 record in football and basketball, Navy ROTC was tied with both Army and Air Force going into the final Commander's Cup event of cross country. After a great turn out from all branches and an extremely close race between all competitors, Army was declared the winner with Navy taking second place. Congratulations to Army for being this year's Commander's Cup champion, and Navy looks forward to taking home the cup next year!

-MIDN 3/C Heimke

## CO's Retirement Ceremony



## Battalion CO's Call

The Winter 2012 semester proved to be a very defining semester for many MIDN in the Battalion. All those that were called to step forth and lead in some way or another did so with great success and splendor. The mentorship found within the upperclassmen and former enlisted proved to be an essential part of molding the young minds found in our battalion into brilliant and well-rounded individuals. The smooth sailing that was seen throughout this semester was due to the dedication and devotion that persisted in each of us. My sincerest gratitude goes out to entire Battalion for trusting in me to be your CO and to the Winter 2012 staff for performing their jobs admirably.

In a final farewell, I wish the best for each one of you and look forward to hearing of the successful careers that await you in your future. Semper Fortis.

- MIDN 1/C Trabert

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who contributed articles and pictures to the Winter 2012 Conn. I deeply appreciate it, because without your efforts the Conn would not be possible. It has been my privilege to serve as our Battalion's Pelorus/Conn Officer for the past year. I am so impressed with the overwhelming accomplishments this Battalion has achieved in nine short months.

Congratulations to this year's Commissionees!

Fair Winds and Following Seas,  
MIDN Rhiannon Ross