From CAPT Evans, Unit Commanding Officer

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is back to school again for another great year with the Wolverine Battalion. I am thrilled to be commencing my second year with the Unit and am looking forward to developing midshipmen and meeting more alumni throughout the year.

We closed out the 2014 school year by commissioning 15 men and women and adding two more later in the summer. The SWO’s are now making their way to their first ships, and the Nukes are down at Charleston. The student aviators, on the other hand, have been stuck at Ann Arbor awaiting flight school slots. It is a tough life to be a “stash” at the University of Michigan over the summer!

Keeping our soon-to-be student naval aviators over the summer actually was quite fortuitous as we had a very busy summer – certainly busier than normal. Immediately following the commissioning last May, we packed up all of our gear, moved out of North Hall and crossed the street to the Chemistry building. A little later in July, during a very solemn ceremony, we lowered the flag for the very last time from the North Hall flag pole “decommissioning” from service an old and battle-worn building that had served as the home to Naval ROTC for over 74 years. Captain Klintworth, former Wolverine midshipmen and PNS, was our guest of honor. With Taps playing solemnly in the background as members of the last class of midshipmen and cadets commissioned from North Hall slowly lowered the flag, the ceremony bestowed dignity on the finality of North Hall’s service. There may have been a tear or two in the eyes of some of the onlookers.

We kicked off the new academic year with 21 new 4/C midshipmen (19 contracted and two college program students). This year we are experimenting with a new concept of developing our most junior midshipmen. We created a “D” Company for them that is led by our top midshipmen leaders. It is a high-intensity induction program that largely replaces and improves upon what you knew as New Student Orientation. D Company will stand up for 8 weeks and end with a culminating graduation exercise. It is exciting.

If you haven’t heard, we are having an alumni tailgate and open house over the UM homecoming weekend. I think that the midshipmen might even challenge you to a flag football game! You can read more about it later in this newsletter. If you can’t make it this year, then come next homecoming, as we will be making homecoming an annual alumni weekend to welcome you all back. Oh, don’t forget to follow us on Facebook. The XO keeps it updated regularly and already has posted information about homecoming. See you soon.

V/R
Joe Evans
Command Officer
Laura McTaggart  (Class of 1992)

After 4 years in the Navy as a SWO, Laura became a civilian and a student at Harvard Business School. After getting her MBA, she went to work for CarMax (an auto retailer) for 7 years. Laura then left CarMax to start her own consulting business which continues to be her main gig, in addition to raising 2 kids and bemoaning the state of Michigan football. She live in Boston now and ran the Boston marathon last year, which will shock all her former fellow midshipman who probably noticed that the run was her least favorite part of the PRT. I’m grateful for the great experience the Navy gave to me and for all the wonderful friends I made in ROTC and in the fleet.

CAPT David Durham

CAPT David Durham (LSA ’89) is a reserve component Surface Warfare Officer currently assigned as Director, Plans & Assessments for the Navy Reserve United States Fleet Forces (USFF) Enterprise. In December, he will assume command of NR MILSEACOMLANT HQ supporting Commander, Military Sealift Command, Atlantic. Previous Navy Reserve commands include units associated with DCNO Fleet Readiness and Logistics (OPNAV N4), Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic (CNSL), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), and Commander, Second Fleet (C2F). Active component assignments include units supporting OPNAV N86, NATO Northwood, and C2F. Active component assignments include USS Conner (FF-1056), USS Normandy (CG-60), Bureau of Naval Personnel, and the White House Military Office. In his civilian career, CAPT Durham is a Senior Director for strategic new business capture management with General Dynamics Information Technology’s (GDIT) Defense Solutions Division. He and his wife Lisa reside in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His daughter Caitlin is a 2012 graduate of the University of Virginia; son Ryan is a 2013 graduate of Virginia Tech; and daughter Rebecca is a freshman at the College of William & Mary.

LCDR Nathaniel S. Anderson (Class of 2000)

LCDR Nathaniel S. Anderson graduated from the University of Michigan NROTC program in 2000 with a degree in Industrial and Operations Engineering. LCDR Anderson is currently serving as the Training Department Head (TDH) at Helicopter Maritime Strike 41 (HSM-41) stationed at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, CA. As HSM-41 TDH, I lead a Department of 40 Officers and Enlisted Instructors conducting training for 217 Fleet Replacement Pilots and Aircrewmen to fly and tactically employ the MH-60R Helicopter. He has accumulated 2850 hours of flight. His previous assignments include USS Arkansas (CGN-41) [Nuke EM], VT-27, HT-18, HSL-41, HSL-47, HT-8, USS Boxer (LHD-4) [Mini Boss], HSM-75 [Officer In Charge/Maintenance Officer]. LCDR Anderson’s deployments include WESTPAC ‘94 (USS Arkansas), WESTPAC ‘96 (USS Arkansas), WESTPAC ‘04 (USS Shiloh and USS Shoup), WESTPAC ‘06 (USS Abraham Lincoln), Anti-Piracy ‘09 (USS Boxer), WESTPAC ‘13 (USS Princeton and USS Nimitz). LCDR Anderson has a wife, Carrie Anderson, and three children Jacob-10, Kaitlyn-7, Morgan-5. His hobbies include spending time with Family, Geocaching, and Hiking.
Commander Mike Beidler
United States Navy

Commander Mike Beidler, a native of Lansing, Michigan, studied Middle Eastern and Soviet politics at the University of Michigan, graduating in May 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Immediately after his commissioning through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), Commander Beidler entered the Navy’s aviation training program in Milton, Florida. He earned his designation as a Naval Aviator in November 1994.

After completing his initial H-46D Sea Knight training at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE (HC-3) in 1996, Commander Beidler reported aboard Helicopter Combat Support Squadron EIGHT (HC-8) in Norfolk, Virginia. In addition to flying Search-and-Rescue (SAR) and Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) missions in the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf theaters of operation while attached to USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) and USS SUPPLY (AOE-6), he served as Assistant Training Officer, Ground Safety Officer, Detachment SIX Assistant Operations Officer, Detachment THREE Operations Officer, and Detachment Liaison Officer.

In 1999, Commander Beidler returned to Milton, Florida, reporting aboard Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT (HT-8) to instruct Student Naval Aviators in the TH-57B/C Bell Jet Ranger. While at HT-8, he served as Public Affairs Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, Legal Officer, and NATOPS Officer.

In 2002, Commander Beidler reported aboard USS BOXER (LHD-4) and participated in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM as the Assistant Air Officer (“Mini-Boss”). While aboard BOXER, Commander Beidler obtained his Officer of the Deck (Underway) qualification.

Upon completion of his disassociated tour in 2003, Commander Beidler returned to newly redesignated Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron THREE (HSC-3), this time as an Instructor Pilot in the new MH-60S Seahawk. In addition to his instructor duties, he served as Department Head for the Safety and Administrative offices.

In July 2005, Commander Beidler graduated with a Master of Science degree in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego’s School of Business Administration. Soon thereafter, he was handpicked to serve a 6-month Individual Augment (IA) tour as Deputy Director of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command’s (USNAVCENT) Friendly Forces Coordination Center (F2C2), located in Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain.

In April 2006, Commander Beidler reported aboard Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron THREE (MSRON-3) as Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of Maritime Expeditionary Security Detachment THREE TWO (MESD-32). Just prior to his detachment’s deployment to the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility in July 2006, he graduated from Air University, the Air Force’s Air Command and Staff College, completing Phase I of his Joint Professional Military Education (JPME).

In January 2007, Commander Beidler re-designated as a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) and, upon completion of his tour at MSS-3 in 2008, attended the Army’s Defense Language Institute (DLI), located in Monterey, California. In 2009, he graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in Persian Farsi.

In December 2009, Commander Beidler reported aboard COMUSNAVCENT in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, to serve as the Country Engagement Officer for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Arabian Peninsula Regional Director, and Deputy Director of Theater Security Cooperation (TSC).

In January 2011, he joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to serve as the Middle East Branch Chief for the International Engagement division (OPNAV N52).

Personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal [two gold stars], the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal [gold star], and numerous other service and unit awards. Over the course of his aviation career, he flew over 2,700 mishap-free.

Commander Beidler is married to the former Christal Knox of San Diego, California. His wife and three children – Mikaela (14), Joshua (12), and Lukas (7) – reside in Fairfax, Virginia.
Master Sergeant Lonnie J. Flores  
United States Marine Corps

Master Sergeant Flores enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1992 from Tecumseh, Michigan and completed recruit training at MCRD San Diego in August 1992. Private First Class Flores then attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, followed by Admin School at Camp Del Mar, Camp Pendleton, CA. Upon completion, he was assigned the 0131 MOS.

Lance Corporal Flores reported to HQHQRON, MCAS Cherry Point, NC in January 1993 as Unit Diary Clerk. There he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Corporal, and was later assigned to Inspector-Instructor Staff Oklahoma City, OK in March 1995 as Unit Diary Clerk. On the Inspector Instructor Staff, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. At completion of his tour Sergeant Flores was transferred to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Twenty-nine Palms, CA in March 1998 as Unit Diary Chief. At Twenty-nine Palms, he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and served in the IPAC as an Admin Chief.

Staff Sergeant Flores was transferred to Marine Corps Recruiting Station Oklahoma City, OK in July 2001 as an Admin Chief. Upon completion of his second successful Independent tour, Staff Sergeant Flores was transferred to MCRD Parris Island, SC in Dec 2003 as a Drill Instructor. While assigned to Golf Company, Second Recruit Training Battalion he was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. His billets included Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Series Gunnery Sergeant, and member of the Commanding Generals Inspection team with Headquarters Recruit Training Regiment.

Gunnery Sergeant Flores was then assigned to Marine Corps Systems Command MCB Quantico, VA in March 2007 as an Admin Chief. Gunnery Sergeant Flores also served as a summer augment at OCS, Quantico, VA, as a 0911 Drill Instructor. Upon completion of his OCS summer, Gunnery Sergeant Flores was selected to serve as the Drill Instructor Monitor. While assigned at MCB Quantico, he was promoted to his current rank of Master Sergeant.

Master Sergeant Flores served at the University of Michigan, Naval ROTC unit from June 2010 to until his retirement September 2014. Master Sergeant Flores’ awards include Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with 1 star, Navy Achievement Medal with 1 star, and a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Master Sergeant Flores is married to the former Gunnery Sergeant Lisa Whitman, USMC, Ret. of Blackwell, Oklahoma. They have three children: Alyssa, Joseph, and Lonnie Jr.
Gunnery Sergeant Dustin M. Bussell  
United States Marine Corps  

Gunnery Sergeant Dustin M. Bussell, a native of Monroe, Michigan, attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC in October 1999. Private Bussell then attended Marine Combat Training where he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class. He then attended his MOS school to become an Amphibious Assault Vehicle crewman. Upon completing Assault Amphibian School in Camp Pendleton, CA, Private First Class Bussell was named the class honor graduate and meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal. He then transferred to 2d Assault Amphibian Battalion (2d AA Bn) in Camp Lejeune, NC.

In 2001, Lance Corporal Bussell deployed with Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and supported operation Rapid Cheetah in Kosovo where he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal and served as a crew chief.

In 2002, Corporal Bussell was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant and attended Sergeant Course where he received honor graduate. In 2003, Sergeant Bussell deployed with 2d AA Bn in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an assistant section leader.

In February 2004, Sergeant Bussell attended Airborne School in Fort Bening, GA. In April 2004, Sergeant Bussell reported to Drill Instructor School in Parris Island, SC where he received honor graduate. In June 2006, Sergeant Bussell was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Sergeant/Staff Sergeant Bussell served at 3rd Recruit Training Battalion from July 2004 to July 2007. He served in the billets of Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Company Operations Chief during his tour.

In July 2007, Staff Sergeant Bussell reported to 2d AA Bn and in April 2008 deployed with elements of 2d AA Bn, Task Force 1/9, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a section leader.

In May 2009, Staff Sergeant Bussell attended Career Course where he received the “gung ho” award. In January 2010, he deployed with Battalion Landing Team 1/9, 24th MEU and participated in Operation Unified Response, Joint Task Force Haiti as a section leader.

In September 2011, Staff Sergeant Bussell was promoted to his current rank, Gunnery Sergeant. In November 2011, Gunnery Sergeant Bussell deployed with Marine Corps Training and Advisory Mission, Security Cooperation Team-United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he served as a trainer and advisor to the UAE Presidential Guard recruit training. In September 2012, Gunnery Sergeant Bussell attended Advanced Course, where he received honor graduate.

In August 2013, Gunnery Sergeant Bussell deployed and attached to B/C Companies, 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion, assigned to Unit Deployment Program 2-13, Combat Assault Battalion, Okinawa, Japan where he served as platoon sergeant.

In May 2013, Gunnery Sergeant Bussell attached to Officer Candidates School as a Sergeant Instructor, graduating two platoons of Platoon Leaders Course-Seniors and Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Gunnery Sergeant Bussell is currently serving as the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, University Of Michigan NROTC. His personal awards include Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd award), and Combat Action Ribbon. He has two children, Isaac, 17 and Juliana, 15.
The battalion proudly continues our philanthropic efforts with volunteer projects like: donating blood, giving veterans support at the Veteran Affairs Hospital, helping others in need through the Salvation Army, and various other community fundraisers. All of these ventures are great opportunities to reach out and help our community!

Our color guard team also continues to carry the colors before all the home football games, and at other athletic and ceremonial events!

We do invite you to please make the trip back to Ann Arbor to tailgate with current and former members of the battalion at the UM-Indiana football game. The alumni tailgate will be held on November 1st, and the tailgate will include an open house and a flag football game! We all hope to see you there or at some of the other upcoming events posted below.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

11/1 Alumni Homecoming Tailgate

11/05-07 Birthday Run

11/07 Birthday Ball

11/15 University of South Carolina Drill Competition

12/12 Winter Commissioning Ceremony

**Congratulations to the Spring and Summer Commissionees!**

- ENS Joshua Barabe – Naval Aviation Schools Command
- ENS Andrew Best – Naval Aviation Schools Command
- ENS Ari Brown – Nuclear Power School
- ENS Sean Carrigan – Naval Aviation Schools Command
- ENS Brendan Fahey – USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13), Naval Support Activity Bahrain
- ENS Nora Gerson, NC – Naval Hospital Portsmouth
- ENS Angelina Gorman – Naval Aviation Schools Command
- ENS Katherine Hayes, NC – Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton
- ENS Jeremy Heimke – Nuclear Power School
- ENS Kimberly Kozlowski, NC – Naval Medical Center Bethesda
- ENS Elizabeth Lippie – USS MICHAEL MURPHY (DDG-112), Naval Station Pearl Harbor
- ENS Milena Marshall, NC – Naval Hospital Balboa
- ENS Joseph McAndrews – Nuclear Power School
- ENS Gabriel Pogliano – Naval Aviation Schools Command
- 2ndLt Olivia Raftshol – The Basic School
- 2ndLt Nicholas Skorina – The Basic School
- ENS Luke Walocko – Naval Aviation Schools Command
Thank you to everyone who submitted a bio for this edition of the Alumni Newsletter!

We are very interested in catching up with all of you. Please send us a bio or an update of how you are doing at http://navy.rotc.umich.edu/alumni

We hope to hear from you soon!

For more information about Unit events, pictures, and more please visit our website http://navy.rotc.umich.edu or our Facebook page http://facebook.com/UniversityOFMichiganNrotc

We continue to thank you for your years of service and dedication to the Navy and Marine Corps.

As always, GO Blue!

If you would like more information regarding alumni functions, please contact the Battalion Alumni Coordinator MIDN Kaminski, at jkamins7@emich.edu