Battalion CO’s Call

This year started out strong. From the conclusion of NSO, which was executed a diligent staff of MIDN, MECEPs, and OCs; we found a great group of 4/C who were ready to hit the ground running. This semester has been busy, as the fall semester typically is. With the Battalion Drill Competition, Endurance Challenge, VA Ceremony, Birthday Ball and Run, the many Color Guard events, and countless other activities, this year has started out on a great foot.

It is common to call out a few hard working members of the battalion. However, that list would be too long and I would no doubt end up leaving someone out. Behind each of these events the battalion put on was either one person or a group of people who were determined to do their job to the best of their abilities. As your CO this semester, I have been truly blessed with an amazing Battalion Staff. Each one of them has gone above and beyond their responsibilities to improve their billets in some way. I hope that everyone has felt the benefits of this.

I want to thank everyone in the Battalion for their continuing effort and involvement. On behalf of the outgoing staff, thank you for supporting us in our billets. To next semester’s staff: we will work just as hard to support you, and you can expect a great Battalion to back you up.

- MIDN 1/C Andrew Powell
Drill Period Competitions

Drill

This year’s Battalion Drill Competition was driven by exceptionally motivated and dedicated platoon sergeants and platoons. The event consisted of a platoon inspection and a drill competition. Aside from the three scheduled drill practices with advisors, platoons showed initiative and a drive to succeed by scheduling multiple practices on their own time. Platoon sergeants in particular made tremendous improvement in bearing, their ability to call cadence, and their confidence to direct their platoons. In learning and practicing drill movements, each unit member was given an opportunity to develop fundamental leadership skills such as attention to detail and displaying confidence in front of others. Overall, the knowledge and skill that the platoons gained in the conduct of drill made this event highly competitive, and the enthusiasm the battalion displayed in the process of preparing for the competition made it an invaluable experience. Bravo Zulu to Alpha 2 for winning the Drill Competition for the 2nd year in a row!

- MIDN 2/C Lippie

Endurance Challenge

Charlie Company had two fire teams that took 1st and 2nd Place and Bravo 2 finished 3rd. These 12 teams emerged from a field with Charlie Fire team 1 winning the event in 36 minutes and 43 seconds, thus, claiming the “Golden Boot”. The Golden Boot is a new tradition for the unit. This boot is no ordinary boot spray painted gold. It had belonged to a member of the Endurance Team; the entire sole separated from the boot. The motivation and dedication necessary for such an occurrence has become the spirit of the Battalion Endurance Competition. This year’s competition was a 2.2 mile Arb run with 75 smurf jacks, 25 8count bodybuilders, 20 fire team sit-ups, 30 star jumps, a 100m fireman carry, 30 4 count mountain climbers, and 25 burpees. Then competitors ran up the Hospital Hill steps and finished with 50 pull-ups completed as a team.

-MIDN 3/C Huff
Athletics – IM, CC, Turkey Bowl

The NROTC battalion competed in 3 IM sports this semester. The University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University both hosted IM Volleyball. Witnessing the battalion’s domination in playoffs, no one would have ever expected that they didn’t win in the regular season. The Michigan IM Volleyball team made it all the way to finals. The final game was tied going into the last set, but the opposing team pulled ahead and secured their victory. It was a hard fought season for Michigan’s NROTC IM volleyball team. Eastern’s NROTC IM volleyball team did not have as much success as Michigan’s. Having trouble with attendance at games, the IM Volleyball team did not have the depth of Michigan’s team. The IM volleyball team, after a great fight, ended the season early. The last of the IM sports was Michigan’s IM Broomball team. The team has with a regular season record of 1-1-1, is looking strong after a first playoff round victory. They lost to the Men’s Club Hockey Team in the semi-finals.

It is a tradition in our battalion to play flag football not only against the Army and Air Force’s unit’s teams, but also to play against the NROTC teams from Notre Dame and That School In Ohio. This year, the Michigan Football team traveled to South Bend as well as Columbus. Unfortunately, we followed suit with the Michigan Football team, losing to both Notre Dame as well as Ohio State. During those games, our team showed great strides since our previous season. Although we lost to both teams, the games were closer than the outcome would suggest. In both games, we were able to build teamwork and become a lot closer with one another. With strong support and interest from the freshman class, we hope to acclimate them into our team, and more importantly, into the unit with ease. The future is promising for our team, and will put up a strong fight next season when The Fighting Irish and the Buckeyes come to play on our turf.

- MIDN 3/C Squires
Community Involvement

Community involvement is crucial as young members of society and as future naval officers. As University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University students and members of the NROTC Battalion, it is a great way to represent our school and the Navy by helping out in the community. For these events, a few midshipmen visit a family each week that need a little bit of help around the house or with yard work. In exchange, these families have generously donated money to help fund our battalion events. Not only does this give midshipmen the opportunity to volunteer and help out, but the people to whom we reach out have spread the word about what we have been doing.

Looking forward to next year, the battalion is investigating an opportunity to help out at Cedar Point to raise funds. Not only would it be great financially, but we would get to ride the 'coasters for free after our shifts! The goal this semester was to make volunteering and community involvement events fun and worthwhile with zero volun-telling, and so far so good! Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and effort to these events!

- MIDN 2/C Hayes

Alumni Tailgate

The rain could not keep the NROTC Battalion from tailgating before the big homecoming game against Illinois this fall. The tailgate was a great success as plenty of members of the battalion were in attendance. The color guard, program sales volunteers, and alumni made it out to this event for some tasty grub made by our own MIDN Nam and MIDN 2/C Brown. The Battalion would like to extend a special thanks to all the volunteers and personnel that sacrificed time to put on this event.

- MIDN 3/C Johnson
Army/Navy Wheelchair Basketball Game

When I was approached about co-coaching the Navy wheelchair team and helping to raise awareness for veterans, I was a bit daunted. These veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and here I am, a Midshipman, tasked with leading them and mustering support from our UM Battalion. After initial hesitation, I realized that these heroes were brave enough to play despite their disabilities to raise awareness and beat Army. Right then, I knew I wanted to be the Battalion lead for this event that would honor and support these veterans. This is the first time our Battalion will be involved in the Army Navy wheelchair game and it was a great success. We walked these veterans onto the court, MIDN Heimke and I helped to coach the team, and cheered on the Navy team. I hope the Battalion’s role in the game will farther be expanded in the future. Overall, the Army Navy Wheelchair game was a fun, exciting, and unique experience for spectators and definitely raised awareness. I am proud of being involved in this event because I can get other Midshipman involved and interacting with these veterans and showing support. Go Blue and go Navy!

9/11: Never Forget Project

This year marked the eleventh year anniversary of the attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001. On September 11, 2012, Rachel Jankowski, Chair of the College Republicans and myself, organized a memorial project in order to remember and honor those who lost their lives in these attacks. This 9/11 memorial project is put on my hundreds of universities around the nation under the direction of the Young America’s Foundation. The Young America’s Foundation is an organization dedicated to helping students spread messages across campuses. One of the projects they have created entitled the 9/11: Never Forget Project was to display 2,977 American flags, representing every person who perished on September 11, 2011.

Early Tuesday morning people were out in the Diag setting up all 2,977 flags and throughout the day, volunteers worked the information table in front of the display. We were able to collect money for the Freedom Alliance, an educational and charitable organization that sponsors numerous program activities aimed at supporting and honoring our service members and their families. The project concluded with the 9/11 vigil organized by the University that night. It was a pleasure to bring this project back to campus for a second year in a row.

- MIDN 1/C Huston
VA Hospital Visits

Once a week, for about an hour, members of our battalion visit the Veteran's hospital in Ann Arbor. These visits provide our battalion a brief way to show our appreciation to those who have gone before us. To those who participate, even only once, a visible difference occurs. This difference is promoted by the uplifting stories and insight provided by our willing veterans.

One man, who served in the Air Force and trained horses in his spare time and another who was based in Germany for 13 years are just a few examples of those who yearn to share their stories with our willing ears. We are the future of Navy and these stories will only make use stronger in our mission. Just a few weeks ago, a nurse, who was also an Army veteran, pulled our group aside to show his gratitude. His words of encouragement lead me to encourage all of you to take time out of your week and participate in this event in the future.

-MIDN 4/C Lawrence

Veteran’s Week VA Ceremony

The VA hospital ceremony is always a special part of the busy week surrounding Veteran’s day. It is great for the veterans at the hospital to be able to meet with young midshipman and cadets to share their experiences and wisdom because the midshipman and cadets represent the next generation of our nations military. The ceremony is a wonderful opportunity for the three ROTC units at the University of Michigan to come together to show their deep appreciation for veterans.

The members and staff at the VA hospital are always amazing hosts for the ceremony. They are always flexible with the needs of the battalion and very easy to work with, because they also understand the significance of the ceremony and what it means to all the veterans at the hospital. The hospital’s staff plays a large role in planning the ceremony every year and making sure everything goes smoothly. The ceremony had to take place inside this year due to inclement weather, and the volunteer services staff was instrumental in transitioning the ceremony to an auditorium so that the ceremony could take place.

This year, Congressman John D. Dingell, the representative for the fifteenth district of Michigan and an Army World War 2 veteran, made some opening remarks at the ceremony. Governor Rick Snyder was also in attendance and spoke about plans to continue services for Michigan veterans. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Major General Gregory J. Vadnais, the Adjutant General for Michigan. General Vadnais spoke about the importance of taking care of veterans and recognizing the great sacrifices they have all made. He also brought up some of the many different challenges veterans have faced through the years, ranging from World War 2 to present day veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

-MIDN 2/C Lascola
This has been an extremely exciting, yet busy semester for our unit’s color guard. Details have been present at all of the home football games in the Big House, which include games against the Air Force, University of Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan State, Northwestern, and Iowa. We witnessed the 12 – 10 win against MSU, breaking Michigan’s four-year losing streak!

The color guard was invited to raise the flag in the UM Diag to commemorate Veterans Day on 12 November. Other events the color guard has been involved with include the Men’s basketball home games and the Navy/Marine Corps birthday ball.

Next semester promises to be just as packed with events as the fall. The University of Michigan Women’s basketball team has requested color guard details to present the colors before the beginning of each home conference game. On 07 February, the women will be hosting their annual pink game, to raise awareness for breast cancer and treatment. Other color guard events include men’s basketball games, the Tri-service Ball, and competition color guard.

- MIDN 2/C Marshall

**Fall 2012 Physical Training**

Overall, I am proud of the battalion’s work ethic during PT this semester. Despite not having access to Palmer Field, the ability group leaders motivated their groups through each PT session. We started the semester off with longer distances. As the semester progressed the distance was cut as speed increased. While lowering our run times, increasing our callisthenic repetitions was a priority.

The battalion started off strong with the inventory PRT. Most of the MIDN broke personal records on the run. Unfortunately, the track was about 400 meters too short. Despite the fast run times, the calisthenics were surprisingly weak. Throughout the semester, we slowly worked to increase our PRT scores. I was pleased with the overall results of the official PRT. As a battalion, we averaged an Excellent score. MIDN Haberer, the Battalion XO, posted the maximum score of 300! Several other MIDN posted Outstanding scores.

- MIDN 2/C Carrigan
Navy and Marine Corps 237th Birthday

237-Mile Battalion Run

This year we conducted the 5th annual Navy/Marine Corps birthday run to commemorate 237 years of Navy and Marine Corps history. The run began on 07 November and the guidon was passed on continuously until 09 November. The run is a great way to remember our heritage and show pride in our service. Every member of the battalion took part in the event and had shifts at all hours of the day. I am very pleased to say that everyone did his or her part to show up on time and fill every running and supervising position to complete yet another successful birthday run. Because of many generous local businesses and charitable individuals, we were able to raise a little over $1,700 for the battalion. Thank you to everyone who participated and very generously donated money to support our battalion.

- MIDN 2/C Buday

Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball

The 2012 Marine Corps and Navy Birthday Ball was a great success. After weeks of planning and practicing, everything seemed to come together perfectly just in time for the ceremony. MIDN 1/C Powell was the adjutant and MIDN 2/C Lippie was the Commander of Troops. Their sword detail, color guard, and cake detail executed all of their maneuvers crisply. MIDN 3/C Demoris was the music and video coordinator for the ceremony. All of the music and video played flawlessly. A special thanks goes out to MIDN 2/C Hayes and MIDN 3/C Dettor for putting together a great slide show complete with a wide variety of NSO and battalion photos. MIDN 2/C Pogliano was in charge of the mementos. This year we all received snifters with the U of M NROTC logo. The mementos were some of the best ever.

Our Guest of Honor was LtGen Jack Bergman (USMC). During his speech, he talked of the importance of people in any command. He also spoke about the changes in the Department of Defense since his commissioning. According to General Bergman, the future is bright for both the Navy and the Marine Corps.

Finally, the battalion had the honor of welcoming back CAPT Vanden-Heuvel, CDR Gavin and CDR Gordon. It was nice to see the former staff back with the Unit. This year's Birthday Ball was a great day of celebration that we will all remember fondly.

- MIDN 2/C McAndrews
4/C Spotlight

ALPHA 1
MIDN Kent stood out quickly after NSO for his exceptional potential as a Naval Officer. Quickly adapting to the increased academic workload of college life, MIDN Kent has risen to the challenge presented to every fourth class: assimilate into a professional, demanding, and challenging work group. Coming out of NSO, MIDN Kent set high goals for himself academically, athletically, professionally, and socially. He has not failed in any of these fields. MIDN Kent never fails to respond to volunteering, takes charge when his classmates are unsure of a new situation, and is always squared away personally. His ambition, eloquence, personality, dedication, and comfort in new and stressful situations will take him far in his career. He is a great asset to the battalion and stands out early as a future leader, not only in the battalion but in the fleet as well. He will finish his first semester with my highest recommendations.
- MIDN 3/C Duggan

ALPHA 2
Midshipman Jackson has continuously set the example for his fellow 4/C throughout the semester. He is very encouraging and helpful in his platoon, stepping up to almost every opportunity presented to him. MIDN Jackson was a member of the Rifle/Pistol Team and played on the CC Flag Football Team this semester. The list of events he volunteered for was extensive, but to name a few, he took part in the Flag Raising in the Diag for Veteran’s Day, VA Hospital visits, and the 9/11 Tribute Service. MIDN Jackson was Supply LPO this semester by volunteer. For a first semester 4/C to step up and confidently take charge of any billet is outstanding. MIDN Jackson did all of this while studying Aerospace Engineering and maintaining a 3.6 GPA. As a respectful and motivated Midshipman, MIDN Jackson has the skills and attitude to be greatly successful within the Battalion as well as in his career as a Naval Officer.
- MIDN 3/C Brown

BRAVO 1
MIDN 4/C Redder has proven to be an exemplary midshipman in Bravo One. He major is Nuclear Engineering; one of the most challenging the University has to offer. While performing well academically and physically, he has been locked on throughout the semester as a model midshipman. He was disciplined in his knowledge study and preparation for inspections, demonstrating proper military bearing. Training with the Endurance Team, he has pushed himself physically. Although the Wisconsin Drill Meet was canceled, he emerged as a strong team member and he is motivated to continue with the team next semester. On top of this, MIDN Redder has managed his time effectively to volunteer for the VA Ceremony and Sunday Cleanup with the Battalion. MIDN Redder sets a balanced example and shows great promise for his future in the NROTC program and as a naval officer.
- MIDN 3/C Huff

BRAVO 2
MIDN 4/C Howell has proven to be an integral component of this year’s freshman class. He is highly motivated, and constantly seeks to improve himself and his fellow Midshipmen. During the battalion drill competition, he rose to the challenge of being Bravo Two’s Guide, displaying tremendous bearing and dedication to learning the movements with little practice time. MIDN Howell is very active in the battalion, putting in many hours at the VA hospital, Big House program sales, and community service efforts. Perhaps most admirable of all is his willingness to help his fellow Midshipmen. During study hours, he is always there to aid in subjects ranging from Computer Science to Chemistry, and frequents midshipmen-led study groups to further his understanding of the material. I see MIDN Howell being an incredible member of the battalion over the next few years. His military excellence is far beyond the scope of a typical fourth class, and will no doubt serve as a role model to both his peers and classes in the future. He has been a pleasure to have in Bravo Two, and I look forward to seeing where his vast potential takes him.
- MIDN 3/C Killman
4/C Spotlight

CHARLIE

MIDN St Charles stood out as an outstanding follower, leader, and motivator. He has set the example throughout the entire semester proving to set him above the standards and expectations. MIDN St Charles volunteers regularly with the battalion and commits himself to every event he can handle. Also, he tried out for and participated in both the Platoon and Squad Drill Teams. He has had no troubles assimilating into the unit and has shown a great sense of eagerness to be involved as much as possible. MIDN St Charles is a leader amongst his fellow 4/C and continues to set the prime example for others to follow.

- MIDN 3/C Millard

Charlie Company Corner

Charlie Company set out to enhance the culture through camaraderie and competition. The very basis of this is the determination to be great at the little things. Back to the basics as we call it. The company was injected with nine outstanding 4/C that came ready to contribute. Coupled with the first hand experience of the 3/C and the outstanding leadership of the 1st and 2nd Class this objective was in reach. The climate was simple, team first. The results started to show as the company grew. Charlie Company was successful in taking 1st and 2nd place in the battalion endurance challenge. They also placed 2nd in the battalion drill competition. Charlie Company worked hard throughout the semester to prepare for the fall field exercise at Fort Custer, our culminating event. They were trained in basic land navigation skills, the five paragraph orders process, squad tactics in the offense, and most importantly leadership. Each one of these skills is essential to their success at Officer Candidate School. Although successful in these endeavors, they understood the importance of humility. Many of our members embraced their Navy brothers and sisters and strived to set the example and always lead from the front. The team concept was not limited to the battalion. While a large majority of our members volunteered at every opportunity in the battalion, they also found time to volunteer with outside agencies. This is a true testament of character, not only for the individual but for the Company as well.

- Sgt Whitney

FEX

“The FEX was a great learning experience for the 4/C as it was the first time many of us had been introduced to patrolling and land navigation, but also for the upperclassmen as they honed their leadership skills and taught the group what they had learned in previous years.”

- MIDN 4/C Petersen

"FEX was an overall great learning experience and it finally gave us the opportunity to put to work the knowledge we have been acquiring over the past semester."

- MIDN 4/C Lidgard
Senior Farewells (Winter Commissionees)

**Ensign Hasson**

Four and a half years later and here I am about to commission. As a freshman, I never thought that this day was actually going to come, especially the first time I looked at my four and half year plan... However, now that I am almost done, I can honestly say it went by extremely fast. Some advice I would like to leave you with is to take advantage of your summer cruise opportunities. Be proactive and if there is something you would like to do/see just ask. Learn as much as you can while you are there and don’t be "that MIDN." Also, at times it is going to seem that there is no light at the end of the tunnel, but you just stick with it and you will be rewarded in the end. Other than that, I would like to thank the Unit Staff and the Battalion for everything they have done to help me along the way. See you in the fleet and GO BLUE!

**Ensign Haberer**

I wish I could say it is beyond belief that four (and a half!) years have passed already and I have gone from a wide-eyed fourth class to a commissioning senior, but in all honesty I have to say it feels like I have been in Ann Arbor, at the University of Michigan, and a part of the NROTC for as long as I had been back home in Texas up through high school. That may be the cynical Fifth Year Senior speaking, but I think it also is a testament to how much I have learned and grown over the last four and a half years.

With that, the words I would like to leave the battalion are this: if someone seems like they are struggling, understand that people can change. Without the second, third, and even fourth chances I was given as a freshman; I would not be where I am today. Someone saw something in me back then and was willing to give me the benefit of the doubt, and for that I thank them. Too often, I see people writing others off from the beginning for a mistake or maybe even a semester riddled with mistakes and never giving them the chance to bounce back. Be supportive of one another and lift each other up. You never know later on when times may be tough either here or in the fleet and that guy is you.

To those that are squared away, never settle! Don’t get complacent! You have seen the battalion run for as little as one semester to as much as seven semesters. You have seen what works, what does not, and what could work better. When you get your chance in a billet, leave it better than the way you picked it up. I am very impressed by our battalion staff’s ability to do this during this fall semester, and I challenge each and every one of you that will someday be a part of the battalion leadership to do the same. See you in the fleet and GO BLUE!
Ensign Schmitz

The last four and a half years seem to have gone by in a flash. When I first arrived at Michigan, it felt like it would be forever until commissioning; now I’m here and I can’t figure out where the time went. My advice to you is to make sure you are taking advantage of all the opportunities you are given in college; it will be over before you know it. That said, don’t forget to take some time and have fun as well. Finally, I would like to thank the unit staff for all of their time and advice.

Second Lieutenant Whitney

Your journey thus far holds great gravity in the scope of the Military. It may seem like an accomplishment you could not wait to end. In reality it is the foundation for which you will represent America. It is a leadership foundation that you will use to lead great young Americans. Be yourself, lead with passion, and take care of your members and their families. Remember, you need them as much as they need you. You’re going to make mistakes, be bold and execute aggressively.
Fall 2012 MIDN of the Month Awards

SEPTEMBER and MIDN OF THE SEMESTER
MIDN 3/C Lemisch

OCTOBER
MIDN 3/C Johnson

NOVEMBER
MIDN 2/C Boday

ALL AROUND PERFORMANCE
MIDN 3/C Millard

Fall 2012 Battalion Staff

Bn CO: MIDN 1/C A. Powell
Bn XO: MIDN 1/C Haberer
Bn Ops O: MIDN 1/C Abbott
A OPS: MIDN 3/C Grzegorzewski
Bn Sergeant Major: MIDN 1/C Lang
Admin: MIDN 2/C Skorina
Supply: MIDN 2/C Raftshol
Academics: MIDN 2/C Stevens
Color Guard: MIDN 2/C Marshall
Drill Team: MIDN 2/C Lippie
PAO: MIDN 2/C Hayes
Alumni/Historian: OC Larson
Recruiting: MIDN 2/C Gezon
Pelorus/Conn: MIDN 2/C Kozlowski
Athletics: MIDN 3/C Squires

PTI: MIDN 2/C Carrigan
Safety: MIDN 1/C Quinn
Alpha Co CO: MIDN 1/C Ragsdale
Alpha 1 Platoon CO: MIDN 2/C Merkel
Alpha 1 Platoon Sgt: MIDN 3/C Dougan
Alpha 2 Platoon CO: MIDN 2/C Irwin
Alpha 1 Platoon Sgt: MIDN 3/C Brown
Bravo Co CO: MIDN 1/C Goughnour
Bravo 1 Platoon CO: MIDN 2/C Walocko
Bravo 1 Platoon Sgt: MIDN 3/C Huff
Bravo 2 Platoon CO: MIDN 2/C Cramer
Bravo 2 Platoon Sgt: MIDN 3/C Killman
Charlie Co CO: Sgt Whitney
Charlie 1 Platoon CO: SSgt Johnson
Charlie 1 Platoon Sgt: MIDN 3/C Millard