CAPTAIN’S CORNER

Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

My first complete year as Commanding Officer at KU has been gratifying. The hard work and dedication that our midshipmen exhibit everyday shows that we are developing the newest and brightest Ensigns and Second Lieutenants.

This year we had many positives within the command. We received a grant for a new ship simulator Conning Officer Virtual Environment (COVE). This simulator will benefit our future SWO’s as this is the same system that they will use in the fleet. We have also added the Maritime Skills Simulator which helps the midshipmen develop navigation skills.

We are working to make this year’s Naval ROTC Alumni Tailgate to be the largest one yet. The midshipmen staff are hosting it on homecoming at the Military Science Building. It would be great to share your stories with the midshipmen who are preparing to commission. Please email the unit at nrotc@ku.edu to let us know you are coming!

Lastly I would like to introduce the new members of our staff. CDR Joe Cooper is the new Executive Officer. He is coming from U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia. He is replacing CDR Chris Higginbotham who is retiring after 24 years of loyal and dedicated service. LT Alan McGinnis is our new Nuclear Officer, he is replacing LT Jesse Shrader who transferred into the Navy Reserves. 1st LT Irma Mosqueda is our new Marine Officer Instructor, she is replacing Capt Brian Collins who is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service.

Thank you for your continued support!

Rock Chalk and Go Navy!

CAPT David J. Meron

A Jayhawk Final Salute

John “Buck” Newsom
KU NROTC Commanding Officer 1958-1961

John “Buck” Newsom was a beloved husband, father and grandfather who passed away November 26, 2015, at the age of 96. Funeral services were held on December 4th at Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS.

Buck was born in Durham, NC, the son of Gene and Annie Laurie Newsom. He attended Duke University for one year and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in February 1941. Upon graduation, he reported to the USS Hopkins as Chief Engineer and Gunnery Officer. The Hopkins entered Pearl Harbor on December 9th, 1941, took over the anti-submarine patrol and sank a Japanese submarine. The Hopkins participated in the Guadalcanal and Munda campaigns, receiving three battle stars and the Navy Unit Citation. The Hopkins survived the Battle of Savo Island, the worst sea battle defeat the U.S. Navy ever suffered.

Buck went through lighter-than-air training (blimp pilot training) at Lakehurst, NJ and Moffett Field, CA. He returned to sea on the USS California participating in the Okinawa Third Fleet operation campaigns. As part of the invasion fleet of Japan, the California was the first American ship in the Kobe/Osaka area. Buck served on the inspection team of the Japanese vessels. After assisting in placing the California in the reserve fleet, Buck then spent six months on the USS Saint Paul in China.

He returned to aviation on the staff of Naval Operations and was Commanding Officer of the squadron ZP-2 in Brunswick, GA. He had additional flight training at Pensacola, FL, Hutchison, KS and Olathe, KS. Buck flew sea planes and carrier-based S2Fs.

After a tour as Plans Officer on the staff of Commander Fleet Air Wings, Atlantic, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, Naval ROTC Unit and Professor of Naval Science at the University of Kansas.

Buck ended his Navy career as Fleet Personnel Officer, Pacific Fleet in Hawaii. After assisting in setting up the Navy Support Unit in Saigon, he retired in September 1964 as a Captain in the U.S. Navy.
Buck is preceded in death by two brothers and three sisters. One brother, Ned Newsom, Durham, NC survives. Surviving Buck is his wife, Faye. They were married for 69 years. Also surviving are daughter Jennifer Rogozinski and husband Peter, son John “Bo” Newsom, Jr., daughter Betty Amyx and husband Ron, granddaughters Kaitlin Witthaus and husband Chris, Hayley Morris and many nieces and nephews.

AUSTRALIAN SUMMER CRUISE
MIDN 1/C Marley Fisher, MIDN 2/C Dalton Prins, MIDN 2/C Ashley Shepherd

The purpose of my First Class cruise was to become exposed to the daily life and duties of an officer in the Surface Warfare community. I was stationed aboard the USS Preble (DDG-88), off the Australian coast from 26 JUN - 21 JUL 2015, where we were deployed to the 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

During my cruise, I shadowed an Ensign who was working on obtaining her SWO qualification. While onboard, I stood watch from 0600-0900 and 1800-2100 as the Conning Officer. The role of the Conning Officer is important because it is the first qualification that leads to becoming qualified as Officer of the Deck. Standing the watch taught me how to properly relieve watch standers and give orders to the Helmsman.

I was incredibly grateful for the opportunity to see the “down under”. An unforgettable experience, and the first of many unique journeys to come with the Navy! - MIDN Marley Fisher

As a Second Class Midshipman, the goal of a cruise is to obtain the greatest insight into the lives of the enlisted sailors. For the 4 weeks onboard I was assigned to shadow a Fire Controlman Second Class. He was in-charge of maintaining the CIWS (close-in weapon system). Each day, we had a designated amount of Preventative Maintenance (PMS) that had to be performed on the CIWS. FC2 taught me a great deal about the everyday life aboard a ship. He showed me the ropes of staying busy, completing your tasks in a timely and efficient manner, and keeping up with your qualifications in order to obtain the Surface Warfare pin.

Another unforgettable experience during my second class cruise was the unique opportunity to fly over to an Australian Naval Ship in the flight detachments SH-60S. During the free time that was allotted, I spent many hours with the flight detachment learning about how they operate in coordination with the ship and more about the aviation pipeline in general. Onboard the Australian ship, we were able to meet their wardroom and gain more insight on what other Navy Officers jobs detail. They were all very nice and welcoming, and complimented us on our “accents”! It was a great chance to really experience something new in my life, and I will never forget it.

-MIDN Dalton Prins

My Second Class cruise was spent onboard the USS Preble (DDG-88), stationed out of Hawaii. During our cruise we performed a training exercise with the Australian Navy, called Talisman Saber. During this time, I was able to experience interesting exercises that were executed, and got the chance to talk to the Australian Navy.

The cruise started with us arriving in Freemantle, AU where we were given liberty to explore both Freemantle and Perth. After three days of liberty, we kicked off our cruise with the USS Preble. While on the Preble, we experienced three RAS and VertReps, two 5-inch gun displays, many .50 cal. gunshots, and a steel beach picnic. The crew was exuberant to have us, and extremely helpful in explaining what their job was and why they were doing it. The Preble had many Junior Officer’s that were trying to qualify to get their SWO pin and they were helpful in giving tips to the midshipmen in how to balance doing the job, getting qualified, and running a division. We held meetings every night in the Wardroom, where TRAINO would debrief the day, give us the opportunity to ask any questions we had, and give us the Plan of the Day for the following day. I enjoyed meeting the crew and officers of the USS Preble, the midshipmen who joined MIDN Fisher, Prins, and I on the Cruise, and the Australian Navy Officers who came aboard the USS Preble.

This cruise was a great experience! It was motivating to see the how joint task forces work together, plus, the help that the crewmembers gave us was incredible. I am glad I got to experience this cruise, and enjoy the small deck platform of the Surface Warfare Community.

-MIDN Ashley Shepherd
OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL
MIDN 1/C Ray Hower

As a Marine Option Midshipmen between your junior and senior year, you are required to attend OCS to earn a commission as Marine Corps Officers. The six-week course is conducted at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Northern Virginia, also known as the crossroads of the Marine Corps. As a member of Lima Company, First Platoon I completed the first increment of Officer Candidate School (OCS).

My fellow candidates and I were put under a lot of pressure. We moved very quickly from place to place in full camouflage uniforms while preparing for exams and physical fitness tests. The time not spent outside conducting physical training was spent in the classroom learning the basics of Marine Corps history, customs, and tactics. The tactics classes were provided to prepare us for the penultimate event of OCS—Small Unit Leadership Evaluation (SULE).

The day SULE was conducted was possibly the most challenging day of OCS. Throughout SULE, each candidate was tested on their ability to lead a platoon-sized element of his or her fellow candidates. The day began at 0015 with a nine-mile hike through the hills of Quantico. Immediately after the hike was concluded, the candidates broke down into a squad of 13 members. The SULE course was roughly 12 miles long and took about 12 hours to complete. The course was designed to be mentally and physically draining, because candidates only receive two hours of sleep the night before.

Admiral Halsey once stated, “The Marine Corps has just been called by the New York Times, ‘The elite of this country.’ I think it is the elite of the world.” After completing OCS, I was extremely honored to receive my Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, and to add “U.S. Marines” to my MARPAT uniform.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRUISE (FOREX)
MIDN 1/C Bryan Neely

I was honored with the opportunity to go on a Foreign Exchange cruise with the Greek Navy. Over the course of 30 days, I got to experience how the Greek Navy operated first hand. While on cruise, I was the only person who spoke English as my primary language. Thanks to my sponsor from the Hellenic Naval Academy, I was quickly immersed and welcomed into Greek language and culture. Learning to speak some Greek, as well as figuring out alternative ways to communicate with the Greek Sailors, pushed me outside of my comfort zone, but was a rewarding experience. On occasion I made a fool of myself while learning the Greek language, which led to a lot of laughs. Eventually I mastered the proper pronunciation of many Greek words and phrases, and earned the respect of the Greek sailors. I’ve made many great new friends and created memories that will be cherished for a lifetime!

During my time onboard, I spent a lot on the bridge, participated in drills, worked with Greek Navy SEALS (OYK), and had a personal lunch with the Commanding Officer. I also had the opportunity to work with seven different countries’ militaries, and visited ports such as Limassol, Cyprus, Haifa, Israel, Alexandria, Egypt, Valletta, Malta, and La Spezia, Italy.

My summer cruise gave me a much greater appreciation for the American military and way of life. I also made many excellent memories and learned life lessons that I will carry with me until I die.

FIRST CLASS NURSE CRUISE
MIDN 1/C Sydney Jourdan

My month long summer training took place at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, nicknamed the President’s Hospital, in Bethesda, Maryland. Spending time in various units including Wounded Warriors, Emergency Room, NICU, Labor & Delivery, and the Pediatric Clinic provided a variety of experiences allowing me to determine my interests.

While working at a military hospital I enjoyed being allowed the opportunity to sit with veterans with a great amount of life and military experience. Taking time out of my day to sit with patients and ask about their military service helped solidify and expand my future aspirations in the United States Navy.

Throughout the experience there were various meetings planned to speak with a number of Navy Nurse Corps leaders. We took a field trip to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), where we were provided a Question & Answer Panel with Naval Nurse Captains, as well as, the Surgeon General of the United States Navy – Vice Admiral Matthew Nathan. I was very thankful for the opportunity to pick the brains of those who have gone before me.

One of the most unforgettable days of my cruise was when the Nurse Option Midshipmen were allowed the opportunity to participate in the Honor Flight Chicago. An Honor Flight is conducted by non-profit organizations dedicated to transporting United States military veterans free of cost, to see
the memorials of the respective war they fought in Washington, D.C. Through this experience, I became a guardian for veteran Richard Gibbs, a 90-year-old, who was army infantry and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. His experiences from the war were something straight out of a textbook and I felt so honored to be talking to a living part of history. By the end of the day, the bond that I built with this veteran was very strong. Saying goodbye was difficult for us both, and to this day, I still receive phone calls from him.

RETURN OF THE BLUE ANGELS
MIDN 2/C Ryan McMahon

On a sunny summer day, the world famous Blue Angels once again screamed across the Kansas City skies. I came not to spectate, but to dream with hopes to someday clamber into the same cockpits and dazzle millions.

We arrived at the airfield several hours before the main event in order to explore the static display. Some of the highlights were the TWA MD-83, KC-135 Stratotanker, and my personal favorite, the T-45 Goshawk—the navy’s advanced jet trainer.

Watching the Marine Corps C-130 roll down the runway with Capt. Katie Higgins, the first female Blue Angel aviator, was inspiring. Observing the tactical abilities of the C-130 is something word cannot express. The way the Pilot in Command landed and executed a short field take off made me more eager than ever to commission as a Student Naval Aviator. As the end of the air show was approaching, you could hear the thunder of Blues taking off. I was awestruck by the precision that each pilot demonstrated. The most notable maneuver was the high-speed pass. As the diamond pilots executed the famous left echelon parade pass, we looked show left as #5 darted past at mach .98! As if that was not amazing enough, #6 came out of nowhere at the same velocity, right over the top of our heads.

This show pushed me to fulfill the inherent desire I have possessed my entire life. That is, and always will be, to serve my country and become a Naval Aviator. As I looked at the young boys and girls in the audience hoping and dreaming with wide-eyes, I too realized I felt and looked the same way.

ADM HARRIS (PACOM) VISIT
MIDN 1/C Nick Castans

The 2nd of December 2015, Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr., Commander of the United States Pacific Command, visited the University of Kansas’s Malott Hall to give a brief to KU’s Navy and Army ROTC. During the brief, he discussed the importance of why the two ROTC units should care about the Pacific, potential threats to the U.S., and the future of the U.S. Military.

One of the main topic points of ADM Harris’s brief was the United States’ concern with the Pacific. He stated that, “by 2050, 70% of the world’s population will live in the Pacific countries.” In addition, he mentioned, China’s growing military expenditure has increased by 167%. However, despite all of this, the biggest threat the United States faces in the Pacific right now is North Korea’s obsession with the use of nuclear weapons.

ADM Harris then tied all of this information together by expanding on why the ROTC units should care about the Pacific. He said, “by 2020, 60% of the U.S. Navy will be in the Pacific.” More specifically, he said, this means the ROTC units will be the future of the military and will jointly have to find solutions to the conflicts in the Pacific. ADM Harris finished his brief by answering questions, and continuing to emphasize the importance of how the 21st century’s military must think jointly.

CAPTAINS CUP
MIDN 1/C Bryan Neely

Who doesn’t enjoy an exciting, morale boosting, team-building, seriously fun, and nail biting semester long competition between the University of Kansas’ best college students? Well, that is exactly what the Naval ROTC Captain’s Cup competition was all about! This past year all of the Navy and Marine Corps midshipmen competed in various activities such as the physical fitness test, answering random military knowledge questions, playing in a March Madness style battalion basketball tournament, playing paintball, and conducting leadership exercises to gain points for their platoon towards the overall Captain’s Cup Competition. The competition was broken down into three scoring categories: Platoon average PRT/PFT score, Inspection/Knowledge questions, and Miscellaneous Activities. Throughout each semester each platoon gained points within each category and at the end the platoon with the most points in each category received the first place points for that category. First place points earned for the PRT/PFT and Inspection/Knowledge Questions categories were four points, second place was three, third place was two, and fourth place was one. For the Miscellaneous Activities category, first place earned eight points, second earned six points, third earned four points, and fourth earned two points because this category focused heavily on team work and camaraderie, which is what the Captain’s Cup competition is all about. At the end of each semester, the points that each platoon earned from the three categories were added together to crown one platoon as the Captain’s Cup
Champion. The fall 2015 Captain’s Cup Champion was Bravo One, commanded by MIDN 3/C Briar Belcher, and the spring 2016 Captain’s Cup Champion was Alpha Two, also commanded by MIDN 3/C Briar Belcher. The scores of each semester’s competition are below:

### Fall 2015 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATOONS</th>
<th>PFT/PFT Average Score (Category)</th>
<th>Inspection/Knowledge Questions</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha One</td>
<td>243.57 (Excellent)</td>
<td>17 points</td>
<td>24 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Two</td>
<td>238.11 (Excellent)</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>39 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bravo One</td>
<td>223.37 (Good)</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>27 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL POINTS: Bravo One = 12, Alpha One = 11, Alpha Two = 11, Bravo Two = 8

### Spring 2016 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATOONS</th>
<th>PFT/PFT Average Score (Category)</th>
<th>Inspection/Knowledge Questions</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha One</td>
<td>250.50 (Excellent)</td>
<td>37 points</td>
<td>43 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Two</td>
<td>222.20 (Excellent)</td>
<td>35 points</td>
<td>48 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bravo One</td>
<td>230.75 (Excellent)</td>
<td>34 points</td>
<td>43 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL POINTS: Alpha Two = 14, Alpha One = 12, Bravo One = 10, Bravo Two = 4

### SALUTE TO SERVICE

**MIDN 2/C Kieran Bateman**

Each year the University of Kansas hosts a Salute to Service football game. It serves as an excellent tribute to veterans and service members amongst the Jayhawk Family. This year’s game was held on 21 November 2015 against West Virginia University. The KU Athletic Department provides every ROTC member a free ticket to the game, and a chance to be recognized in uniform. The unit met at the Military Science Building and marched together to Memorial Stadium.

Many of the midshipmen and cadets in attendance got the chance to hold a National Ensign on the field for the National Anthem, then created a tunnel for the football team to run through. Two USAF F-16s conducted a fly over at the conclusion of the National Anthem. Big Jay and Baby Jay (the KU mascots) joined the battalion in the stands after donning Army Camouflage Uniform trousers. Spirits were high as the Jayhawk Battalion cheered as their football team kicked off. A slew of veterans from every US conflict since WWII were introduced after the first quarter to a resounding standing ovation. Towards the end of the game, MIDN Neely and MIDN Jourdan participated in the Hy-Vee Grocery Shoot, where one person uses a slingshot to shoot t-shirts at their partner wielding a basket on the 20 yard line.

This game provided the battalion an excellent opportunity to grow closer together. We were able to integrate ourselves with the Lawrence Community in uniform, representing the Navy and Marine Corps in outstanding fashion. Despite the slightly unfavorable weather and the rather disappointing game, the Jayhawk Family had a great time paying tribute to our veterans.

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### ALUMINI TAILGATE

**MIDN 2/C Nicholas Morrison**

The Jayhawk Battalion hosted the annual Alumni Tailgate to honor past graduates from the program on 31 October 2015. The tailgate serves many beneficial purposes. It gives the opportunity for the battalion to come together and enjoy great food and wonderful company. Another benefit from hosting the tailgate is that it provides a great opportunity to meet, visit, and show gratitude for those who have served our nation. Despite not having the most pleasant conditions for tailgating the midshipmen set up the tables and the officer candidates manned the grill. Luckily, the Jayhawk Battalion was blessed with a special guest.

We were honored to host Mr. Grant Caughey, class of 1974. Mr. Caughey served as a Naval Aviator, serving his last tour as the Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer of the Jayhawk Battalion. His story falls in with KU Professor Dr. David Ambler who put it as such, “Remember your nest, return to it often.” Hearing his stories about his experiences as a midshipman and later a Commanding Officer at the University of Kansas, were both interesting and insightful. There was a special moment when his wife proudly described her love for the Navy and all it has done for their family.
The University of Kansas Annual Veteran’s Day Run took place on Sunday, November 15th. Not only did five of our very own midshipmen participate, two actually placed in their age/gender categories. Midshipman 4/C Katherine Meeds placed number one in the 15-19 year old female category, and Midshipman 4/C, Jacob Ellenberger, took second in the 15-19 year old male category.

Midshipman Meeds provided a statement about her experience at her first Veteran’s Day run. “The Veteran's Day Run was a lot of fun. The course started at the bottom of a hill, so all of the runners had to work hard from the start. We ran along Memorial Drive, and saw midshipmen and cadets standing guard at the memorials. It was really motivating to see them, because they reminded us why we were running. Overall, I had a lot of fun with the race, and I can't wait to do it again next year.”

Another account was provided by Midshipman 4/C Fritz Porter. “I enjoyed the 5K and look forward to more in the future. Additionally, it was nice to see so many others from the battalion participate in both the run and the set up. Our presence represented the battalion well. I hope to see even more of us next year.”

The midshipmen certainly enjoyed the evening and were greatly humbled by the outstanding men and women in attendance. The air was filled with high spirits and music from the greatest generation, including hits by Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. A few of the midshipmen exemplified being a gentleman by agreeing to dance with some of the sweet ladies whose spouses could only attend the event in spirit. The night concluded with a proudful singing of each Service Song. It is safe to say that this event is concretely staying at KU, and many midshipmen are already eager to return.

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The evening continued with a speech about leadership and perseverance from Captain John Keilty, United States Navy. CAPT Keilty is an alumni of the University of Utah NROTC graduating with a degree in geography. He served in the United States Navy for thirty years and retired in 2001, as the Commander of the Tinker Navy Air Wing in Oklahoma City, responsible for leading 3,000 men and women and their families. CAPT Keilty’s speech was unique in that he encouraged the services to cheer for their comrades in other branches to show comradery and a unitedness between the services. After CAPT Keilty concluded his speech, all of the graduating Midshipmen and Cadets were recognized. Nine Midshipmen and 2 Officer Candidates were recognized for their approaching commission, and were honored by the announcement of their name, hometown, and major of choice as they walked through the sword arch.

As a First Class Midshipmen, I can say firsthand that marching through the sword arch was one of the highlights of my journey in this program. Each First Class Midshipmen has shown their dedication to the battalion through numerous leadership roles and positions through the course of their NROTC careers. As seniors, we have not given up on making improvements within the battalion, and are prepared to spend a tremendous amount of time and effort bettering ourselves as future commissioned officers and bettering our battalion for future generations to come. Military service is the highest honor, and I speak for the entire senior class in saying that we feel privileged to answer and respond to the call of duty. It's an honor to wear this uniform and be a part of the armed forces of the greatest nation in the history of the world. And so, at the end of the sword arch I saw more than just a finish line to becoming a commissioned officer, I saw the starting line to serving my country.

The evening ended with a night full of dancing by the Navy and Marine Corps Midshipmen (our Army and Airforce friends decided that dancing was not for them). It was a wonderful evening that I will remember for years to come.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
MIDN 4/C Charley Beck

Habitat for Humanity is a nationwide program that provides the opportunity for families to build a stable home they would not otherwise have. Habitat for Humanity has completed 89 homes for Lawrence residents and are now finishing up houses #90 and #91—the two homes KU Naval ROTC was able to aid in constructing on the 23rd and 30th of January. On these two Saturdays, volunteers from the KU NROTC battalion lent a hand to Habitat for Humanity, and the community, by hanging drywall, shingling a roof, installing trim, tiling floors, caulking, and spackling. During the two weekends, the battalion was able to interact with the families the homes were being built for, as well as learn valuable construction experience. Habitat for Humanity differs from other community outreach programs in that they require the families to not only help build their own homes, but they also receive the great benefit of a long term, low-interest loan that allows for the house to be more readily affordable to the families.

In addition to honing their carpentry skills (some more successfully than others), the midshipmen also learned more about how Habitat for Humanity operates and plays a vital role in supporting the Lawrence community. As previously mentioned, Lawrence Habitat for Humanity has contributed almost 91 incredible gifts, homes for families in need. Such a feat can only be accomplished by equally incredible people—people who have inspired the community of Lawrence to lend a helping hand to those in need of a step up. The midshipmen had a great time chatting with, and learning from, the regular Habitat for Humanity volunteers and the two friendly and personable families for whom the homes were being constructed. Overall, the KU NROTC Battalion had a blast volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and look forward to future opportunities to further aid their community.

RADM PENFIELD VISIT
MIDN 4/C Kurt Wenske

On February 9, 2016 The University of Kansas Naval ROTC had the privilege of having Admiral Jeffrey Penfield come and address the battalion. From the start, it was incredibly apparent RADM Penfield eats, sleeps, and breathes Navy. As a sophomore in college at Wichita State University, he, “thought landing on carriers looked cool.” With an aviation management degree in hand, he headed to Pensacola, Florida (the cradle of Naval Aviation) and began his naval career.
Upon completion of basic flight training, he was selected for strike and began flying the F/A-18 Hornet in the early 1980s. The rest of RADM Penfield’s career is history. Through the adventures and opportunities in the Navy, he advanced through the ranks, commanded the maiden F/A-18E Super Hornet cruise, and has been a fundamental part of various aviation weapons programs. Despite his impressive career, he merely touched upon his adventures. More important to the Admiral were the current state of sailors and marines, and the future of the Navy and Marine Corps.

As a flag officer, RADM Penfield is now tasked with ensuring the success and future of the Navy and Marine Corps. He enthusiastically rattled off multiple names of men and women committed to making the Navy the best place to work. He also stressed the importance of leadership and stressed a number of valuable leadership qualities. He underscored the importance of finding a personal golden path and staying on that path. He made sure the midshipmen understood the importance of teamwork and, “expanding the horizons to the team.” The University of Kansas Naval ROTC is incredibly fortunate to have incredible opportunities, such as this one, and wish RADM Penfield the best of luck with the best of his career. Rock Chalk!

2016 NOTRE DAME BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
MIDN 1/C Bryan Neely

For the second year in a row, MIDN Bryan Neely has been fortunate enough to lead a group of midshipmen from the University of Kansas to Notre Dame to compete in a basketball tournament with other future military officers from around the country. This tournament not only brings a lot of excitement and builds camaraderie among midshipmen and cadets, but it also offers much more to those that participate. The majority of the teams competing begin the tournament with the goal to bring the gold trophy back to their respective schools; however, whether the teams win or lose games in this tournament, everyone leaves a winner because of the experience they get to take home.

Notre Dame’s basketball tournament, officially called the “Flying’ Irish Basketball Invitational,” first started in 1985. Notre Dame’s Air Force ROTC initially started the tournament with a handful of teams, but it has grown into an event for ROTC units across the nation.

This year the KU NROTC team only consisted of six players due to injuries, but that did not stop them from giving one hundred percent effort. They played and competed through adversity such as bloody noses and terrible officiating, but this year the chips just didn’t fall their way. They began the tournament by losing to Virginia Tech, who had a significant size and depth advantage. This loss was followed by another loss to Saint Louis University Air Force ROTC detachment and Kentucky’s Army ROTC unit. Despite this, the team enjoyed competing and looks forward to the chance to bring back the gold next year.

2016/2017 CHAIN OF COMMAND
MIDN 3/C Anna Whitaker

On Wednesday, 23 April 2016, the University of Kansas Naval ROTC conducted its first uniform inspection of the semester. At 1600 on the top floor of the Military Science Building, wearing their summer whites, the midshipmen of the Battalion formed up by company (Alpha and Bravo Company, with Company commanders standing in front of the formation) and stood at attention for duration of the inspection. The Midshipmen Battalion Commanding Officer, Midshipman Walker, inspected each individual midshipmen based on uniform, and their ability to correctly answer a random ‘knowledge’ question pertaining to Navy and Marine Corps regulations. Inspections are conducted by military units in order to promote good order and discipline. They are a great opportunity for individuals to show peers and superiors that they are disciplined and possess professional military bearing.

Following the inspection, the Commanding Officer, Captain David J. Meron, announced the new chain of command for the following semester, Fall of 2017. The next Battalion Commanding Officer will be Midshipman Morrison, Battalion Executive Officer will be Midshipman Herren, and the new Sergeant Major position will be held by Midshipman Henselman. The rest of the billets are listed in the picture below. Over the course of this past school year, Midshipman Walker, Neely, and Officer Candidate Reid did an outstanding job as Battalion Commanding Officer, Master Chief Petty Officer, and Battalion Executive Officer, respectively. They not only improved battalion efficiency, but also improved camaraderie within KU’s NROTC battalion. Having no doubt that the new Midshipman leadership will continue the tradition of excellence, the University of Kansas Naval ROTC is left in great hands for the coming academic year.
DINING IN
MIDN 2/C Alexander Hines

On Friday April 8th, 2016 the University of Kansas Naval ROTC Junior and Senior Midshipmen had the privilege of attending the annual Dining In event at the Oread Hotel with guest speaker Master Chief Steven Timmons. Dining In is a tradition that dates back to the oldest militaries in the world. As time went on, it became more popular and structured. This tradition in the United States Navy stems from the Royal Navy during America’s independence. The Navy would hold these functions while in foreign ports in the ship’s wardroom and the Marines would hold theirs wherever they could. Many times Dining In would be used to host and build bonds with foreign officers and officials. Over the years Dining In has had many different formalities and many different purposes, but the main goal is to build camaraderie between fellow service members.

Master Chief Timmons enlisted in the Navy in May of 1987. He served upon the PCU Barry (DDG 52), the USS Gonzalez (DDG 66), and the USS Cole (DDG 67), which was his first Command Master Chief tour. He also served at Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) Two-Six, Fleet Training Center Norfolk, where he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer, Afloat Training Group (ATG) Atlantic, Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, and his current command the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, as the Regional Command Master Chief. At Dining In, Master Chief Timmons spoke about how proud and optimistic he is in the future of the United States Navy. He claims that modern sailors are smarter and better equipped. Furthermore, he says the Navy is asking less people to do more work. On a more personal level, Master Chief Timmons said the only person to make him re-enlist was an officer who took the time to actually care about him and reach out to help him. He talked to many midshipmen individually as well and offered great advice.

The midshipmen learned many lessons throughout the course of the night, many of which came from Master Chief Timmons and others were from the traditions of Dining In. The most important experience is the bond that is strengthened between the fellow brothers and sisters of whom they will be fighting with in the very near future.

SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY
MIDN 4/C Kathleen Meads

On April 27th, the Jayhawk Battalion gathered in the Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union to celebrate the year’s achievements of the Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and MECEP at the annual Awards Ceremony. There were numerous awards given out, which acknowledged the accomplishments of the students particularly in areas like academics and leadership abilities. One of the awards given out was the American Legion Award for Military Achievement, which was presented to a Midshipman from each class who met high academic standards, and demonstrated outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship this past year. One of the recipients of this award was Midshipman 3/C Briar Belcher. “The awards ceremony was a good chance for people’s families to come and see what their kids have been working on and it gave other people, like the award presenters, a chance to see what KU NROTC is about.”

Midshipman Belcher continued with, “I think everybody is on top of things and does a good job. No one slacks-off and everyone works hard. I think everybody deserves an award.” Towards the end of the ceremony, all of the graduating seniors were called to the stage by the Commanding Officer, Captain Meron, and were presented with their first set of “Butter Bars,” which made the approaching date of Commissioning all the more exciting. The Awards Ceremony ended with the enthusiastic singing of “Anchors Aweigh,” the “Marine’s Hymn,” and the “KU Alma Mater” and “Rock Chalk Chant.” Although the Battalion, as a whole, may not be the most musically inclined, the Awards Ceremony showed that everyone is successfully moving towards their goals of becoming Officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

SPRING COMMISSIONING
MIDN 2/C Dalton Prins

On May 16th, 2016, the University of Kansas ROTC battalions held their annual Spring Commissioning ceremony in the Kansas Ballroom. Thirty men and women, part of the great Class of 2016, were commissioned, and will enter the armed services in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force.

This year, the University of Kansas Naval ROTC battalion produced nine worthy seniors to commission into the United States Navy and Marine Corps. After completing their degrees, the seniors have proved their worth as future leaders and are ready to serve their country.
The event began at 1000, and the master of ceremony was the Army ROTC’s executive officer, Major Flora Carson. After the singing of the National Anthem, as well as a prayer to start the ceremony, KU’s chancellor Mrs. Bernadette Gray-Little expressed her gratitude for the seniors. She was followed by the event’s guest of honor, Major General Victor J. Braden, who gave a motivating and inspiring speech to all those in attendance, addressing what the future holds for the soon to be commissioned seniors. After, every senior walked on stage, and were officially sworn in as officers in their respective services by the general. This was followed by a standing ovation by all guests in attendance, as the seniors’ quest of obtaining a commission was now over. With the help of their loved ones, each senior was then pinned with their first set of officer bars. They wore their newly appointed ranks with pride and a smile across their face, as the realization began to sink in that they are now a part of the greatest fighting force in the world.

As for the future of these nine officers, each of them will venture into the active duty community of their choice. For the Navy, this includes submarine warfare, surface warfare, supply corps, and aviation. For the Marines, they will go to The Basic School, or TBS, where they will be selected for a specific MOS needed by the Marine Corps. Rest assured, whichever community these officers go into, they will be getting nine of the best.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, seniors, and Rock Chalk!

Interestingly in contributing a gift to the Navy ROTC Unit? Please consider giving to the Dwight G. Rickman Naval Scholarship Fund. Your tax-deductible contribution to the endowment fund shall be used to provide scholarships for deserving students in the Naval ROTC program.

Donations can be made online at: www.kuendowment.org/rotc_navalaward

Thank you for your continued support!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 15-19 AUGUST – NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
- 22 AUGUST – 1ST DAY OF CLASS
- 05 SEPTEMBER – LABOR DAY (CAMPUS CLOSED)
- 08-11 OCTOBER – FALL BREAK
- 13 OCTOBER – NAVY’S BIRTHDAY
- 22 OCTOBER – ALUMNI TAILGATE/REUNION
- 10 NOV – USMC BIRTHDAY
- 11 NOV – VETERAN’S DAY
- 12 NOV – SALUTE TO SERVICE FOOTBALL GAME

We love to hear from our Alumni! Please contact us at nrotc@ku.edu for comments, questions or suggestions.

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