

THE MAINSTAY



University of Idaho

&

Washington State University

NROTC Unit

2024-2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS UNIT



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Commanding Officer's Call



Greetings from the Palouse,

I hope this issue of the Mainstay finds you in good health. Academic Year 2024-2025 was yet another highly successful year for the UI/WSU NROTC Battalion.

This year we were able to sharpen our focus, test our resilience, and reaffirm our commitment to excellence. Our midshipmen excelled both in and out of uniform—demonstrating professionalism in leadership labs, academic excellence in the classroom, and dedication through countless hours of physical training, volunteer service, and preparation for life in the Fleet. This past year we increased participation in community outreach with more individuals donating their time to support the Moscow Public Library, we designed and hosted a competition of Moscow High School students during the halftime of their Military Appreciation game, and continued to support the county through Adopt-a-Highway. Several of our students also volunteered their time supporting university studies. Furthermore, we established the Squad of the Semester competition that runs the entirety of the semester, ending with a 2-hour long Culminating Event that consists of 4-5 competition in an Olympiad-type format. Events that counted towards the winning squad: PRT/PFT, sprint events, virtual handgun marksmanship, volunteer hours, boxing, grappling, log

PT, Mogadishu Mile, tug-o-war, Kim's Game, and midshipman awards.

Additionally, with the intent of increasing our visibility as well as having some fun, our midshipmen planned and executed two University Integration Events, one with the UI Men's Basketball Team and the other with the UI Swimming and Diving Team. These events involved integrated midshipmen/athlete teams competing against one another. Videos of both these events can be viewed on our Instagram account, https://www.instagram.com/uiwsu_nrotc/. On this note, if you have an Instagram account, I encourage you to check it out regularly, our midshipmen do outstanding work with its content, and it's the best way to observe what the battalion is up to. We also set up a battalion YouTube account, https://www.instagram.com/uiwsu_nrotc/, where we post some of our videos. Unfortunately, due to technical issues, we couldn't upload our integration event with the Swim Team to YouTube, but you can find our video with the basketball team on the YouTube Shorts page, https://www.instagram.com/uiwsu_nrotc/.

Our annual Northwest Navy (NWN) competition was held at the University of Idaho in April where we enjoyed the traditional rivalry and camaraderie with our peers. We reinserted a couple of traditional team sports as well as adding in wrestling as an event. The midshipmen did an outstanding job with both the planning and execution of this event. We again got off to a slow start, but came back to the point where we finished third, but it was close enough that if we would have taken one more event, we could have ended in a 3-way tie for first. Overall, it was a tremendous success in comparison to recent iterations, and I could not have been prouder of the personnel involved in running this event.

Most importantly, however, we had the honor of commissioning another class of Navy and Marine Corps officers—each one ready to lead with integrity, competence, and humility. To the families, alumni, and supporters of our program: thank you for your unwavering encouragement. Your support remains vital to the success and morale of our future leaders.

To our graduating seniors—now Ensigns and Second Lieutenants—you leave behind a legacy of hard work and commitment. You are ready to meet the demands of leadership, and we are proud to have played a part in your journey. Remember, your actions in the fleet will reflect not only your personal character, but the values instilled in you here. To our returning midshipmen: continue to challenge yourselves. The expectations are high because the responsibility is great—but I have every confidence that you will rise to meet it.

Best regards,

CAPT Scott Brunson

Fall Battalion Commander's Call

The Fall 2024 semester was the most eventful and action-packed I have experienced during my time with this unit. The battalion hit the ground running by welcoming our incoming 4/Cs at NSO, then immediately dove into several new events that put our leadership to the test.

The UI/WSU NROTC unit made significant strides in strengthening our connection with the local Moscow community. In September, we organized an exciting halftime event for the Moscow High School Football Military Appreciation Game. Later in October, we participated in the biannual Friends of the Library event, where we transported and organized hundreds of books for the local county fair. Finally, in November, we partnered with a local elementary school for their Veteran's Day Assembly, leading a fun and engaging push-up competition with the students.

Regarding our weekly training, we implemented a new strategy to enhance the effectiveness of Survival Tactics during PT sessions. Many upperclassmen volunteered their time and expertise to lead in-depth striking and grappling sessions, significantly enriching the training experience.

Our Navy and Marine Corps specific training reached new heights this semester. The Semper Fi FEX went later than ever before with the intent of expanding to two days in the spring. In addition to traditional land navigation and SULE lanes, Semper Fi successfully integrated paintball for the first time. This innovation created a more realistic and highly effective training environment, supported by Navy option volunteer OPFOR.

On the Navy side, Semper Fo executed the unit's first wargame. Each work center researched an assigned country and analyzed its capabilities to prepare for the culminating wargame at the semester's end. Navy options fully engaged in this exercise, defending their countries to the best of their abilities. This training challenged midshipmen to think critically and navigate complex scenarios involving factors like time, enemy capabilities, weapons systems, casualties, weather, and more. It was a unique and invaluable opportunity for developing strategic thinking.

This dedicated Battalion has set itself up for success in the coming semester and beyond. As we look towards the CNO's 2024 Navigation Plan, we recognize its direct impact on us. Our Battalion is actively enhancing its academics, physical fitness, and leadership skills to enter the fleet ready to serve our country to the best of our abilities.

Go Vandals and Go Cougs!

ENS Johanna Rodzinka

Spring Battalion Commander's Call

The Spring 2025 semester was a remarkable period of development, cohesion, and accomplishment for the UI/WSU NROTC Battalion. As a unit, we demonstrated unwavering commitment to excellence through challenging events, service to our community, and a renewed focus on leadership and personal growth.

One of the semester's most defining moments was our participation in the annual Northwest Navy Competition. This event brought together NROTC units from across the region and served as a true test of our teamwork and competitive spirit. From the opening ceremonies to the final event, our battalion operated with unity, professionalism, and determination. Despite finishing in 3rd place overall, we maintained high morale and supported each other through every challenge, demonstrating the type of camaraderie and resilience that defines future Naval and Marine Corps officers. Our performance reflected the strength of our training and the trust we've built within our ranks.

In April, we gathered to recognize the hard work and selfless dedication of our peers at the Spring Awards ceremony. Many midshipmen were honored with scholarships and awards for their academic excellence, leadership, and outstanding performance throughout the semester. These achievements served not only as individual accolades but also as reflections of the collective effort and discipline upheld across the battalion.

Beyond training and competition, we also took time to give back. Our unit continued to support the Friends of the Library and roadside cleanup efforts, contributing to the betterment of the local community through public service. These volunteer opportunities, though humble in nature, exemplify the selflessness and civic responsibility we strive to embody as future officers.

For our Semper Fi Marine Corps Field Exercise (FEX), we elevated our training by conducting a rigorous 2-day field evaluation. The extended timeline allowed for a more comprehensive approach, including both day and night land navigation, Small Unit Leadership Evaluations (SULEs) for our 1/C midshipmen, and the construction of fighting holes and defensive positions. This hands-on training emphasized tactical proficiency, decision-making under stress, and effective leadership in field conditions, which are all critical skills as our Marine option midshipmen prepare for The Basic School (TBS) and beyond.

As we conclude the Spring 2025 semester, it is clear that our battalion is growing stronger with every challenge and opportunity. Whether competing in regional events, training in the field, or serving the local community, we are cultivating a culture of excellence, unity, and service. With eyes on the future and our roles in the fleet, we remain committed to becoming capable and honorable leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis and Semper Fortis.

2nd Lt Jun Figueredo

Captain Scott P. Brunson, Commanding Officer



CAPT Scott Brunson was born in Kentucky and raised in Virginia, Iowa, and Illinois. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Biology. He also holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from Webster University and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the U. S. Army's Strategic Leadership Studies Program. Operationally, CAPT Brunson's tours include flying with the "World Watchers" of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE (VQ-1) flying the EP-3E Aries II in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM also with missions in the Western Pacific; USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) in support of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces in the Western Pacific; the "Rangers" of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron TWO (VQ-2) flying in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, ODYSSEY DAWN, and UNIFIED PROTECTOR; the "Screaming Eagles" of Patrol Squadron ONE (VP-1), where he served as the Executive and the Commanding Officer, deploying twice to the Western Pacific as well as the Middle East in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Ashore, CAPT Brunson's assignments include serving as Flag Lieutenant for Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group (CPRG) at NSA Norfolk, VA; Support to Operations Air Officer, Executive Officer-Support to Operations Division, and Coordination Officer-J3 Directorate at NATO's Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium; Japanese Engagement/Operational Plans/Future Requirements Director (N5/N7/N8) for Commander, Task Force SEVEN TWO (CTF-72) located at NAF Atsugi, Ayase, Japan; Fleet Government Program Manager for Commander, U. S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, HI. CAPT Brunson assumed command of NROTC University of Idaho/Washington State University in September 2023.



Commander Matthew Rigler, Executive Officer



Commander Matthew Rigler is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering. Matt also earned a Master of Science degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Systems Technology in 2005. He was designated a Naval Aviator in August 2007. In 2008, CDR Rigler reported to the “Eightballers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron EIGHT (HSC-8) in San Diego, CA, deploying on board USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74) to the Seventh Fleet AOR.

In 2011, CDR Rigler reported to the “Warhawks” of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron TEN (HS-10) for duty as a Fleet Replacement Instructor Pilot. HS-10 was “sun downed” in 2012 at which point Matt became an instructor at HSC-3. In addition to Instructor duty, he served as Assistant Operations Officer, Training Officer, and Search and Rescue Evaluator and Model Manager. In 2014, CDR Rigler reported to Norfolk, VA to the “Red

Wolves” of HSC-84, a squadron providing dedicated SOF support. He deployed twice to CENTCOM Crises Response Element, and once to Jordan in support of Exercise EAGER LION before decommissioning HSC-84 in March 2016. In 2016, CDR Rigler returned to San Diego for his department head tour with the “Firehawks” of HSC-85, HSC-84’s sister squadron also providing dedicated SOF support. He served as Future Operations Officer, Det Operations Officer, and Maintenance Officer conducting one deployment to the Philippines in support of Exercise BALIKATAN and to Darwin, Australia in support of Exercise TALISMAN SABER. His second deployment with HSC-85 was to the Horn of Africa as part of the Personnel Recovery Task Force. In 2019, CDR Rigler was assigned to NATO Allied Joint Forces Command, Brunssum in the Netherlands where he worked in the J5 Plans Division focused on Planning Support and Coordination. He managed and taught NATO’s Tools for Operational Planning Functional Area Services (TOPFAS). He was also a member of the Advanced Consultation Working Group focused on the integration of non-NATO Partner for Peace nations.

In 2022, CDR Rigler reported to Virginia Beach as Detachment Officer in Charge (OIC) at Tactical Air Control Squadron TWO ONE (VTC-21) onboard Joint Expeditionary Base – Little Creek. He deployed with a detachment of air traffic controllers, operations specialists, and watch officers manning the Tactical Air Control Center on board USS BATAAN (LHD-5) in support of the Amphibious Ready Group/Marine Expeditionary Unit (ARG/MEU). CDR Rigler’s personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (Strike/Flight), Navy Commendation Medal (3), Navy Achievement Medal (3), Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin, and various unit and campaign awards. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Peer Leadership Award in 2011. He and his wife Erika have two children.

Lieutenant Thomas Ernst, Surface Warfare Officer



LT Thomas Ernst is a native of Edmonds, Washington. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in May of 2016, where he earned his B.S. in History with a minor in Japanese Language. While a Midshipman at Annapolis, he was selected for an intensive 6-month language program at the Japanese National Defense Academy in Yokosuka in partnership with the Japanese Self Defense Forces and was a recipient of the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship to study Japanese at the University of Shiga Prefecture in Hikone, Japan.

LT Ernst reported onboard the guided missile cruiser USS SHILOH (CG 67) for his first tour as a division officer in December 2016. While onboard SHILOH, he served as the Combat Information Center Officer, Main Propulsion Officer and Auxiliaries Officer.

Upon the completion of his first tour, LT Ernst received orders to the destroyer USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) to serve as her Navigator and Executive Department Head. As Navigator, LT Ernst completed an 18 month Major Maintenance Period, Navigation Certification, a full training cycle and a homeport shift from San Diego to Yokosuka, conducting over 60 sea and anchor details onboard HIGGINS and as the acting Navigator onboard USS O'KANE (DDG 77).

LT Ernst reported to Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at the University of Idaho in September of 2021 where he served as Assistant Professor of Naval Science and Surface Warfare Officer.



Lieutenant Devin Calcote, Aviation Warfare Officer



LT Devin Calcote, a native of Brighton, CO, graduated from Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics. He received his commission through the US Navy's Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 2016. Following his graduation from OCS, LT Calcote graduated from Introductory Flight Screening (IFS) in Pensacola, Florida. He then attended Primary Flight Training in Milton, Florida attached to VT-2. Upon completion of Primary, LT Calcote was selected to fly the E-6B Mercury. He finished his Naval Aviator training pipeline in Corpus Crispy, Texas with VT-31. He proudly received his wings of gold in October of 2018.

LT Calcote's then reported to VQ-7, his Fleet Replacement Squadron. During his time in VQ-7 LT Calcote learned the ins and outs of the E-6B Mercury. LT Calcote's first operational squadron was VQ-4. During his time in the squadron, he participated in multiple deployments, primarily on the east coast. LT Calcote worked as an Airframes Division Officer, Ground Safety Officer, NATOPS and Training Officer, and as The Aircraft Divisions Officer. In addition to his ground jobs, LT Calcote qualified as an Aircraft Commander and Mission Commander, amassing over 1,000 flight hours throughout his operational tour and training pipeline.

Ashore, LT Calcote served as the Aviation Warfare Officer for the University of Idaho and Washington State University's Navy ROTC Unit, where he earned a Master's degree in Technology Management from the University of Idaho.

LT Calcote is proud to have served with VQ-4 when the squadron earned the Battle Efficiency "E". His personal awards include an Army Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. LT Calcote and his wife, Cassie, have one daughter, Evie and a son, Lincoln.



Lieutenant Caleb Scarlett, Nuclear Propulsion Officer



Born in Durham, NC and raised in Madison, WI, LT Scarlett received his commission from the NROTC Program at the University of California, Berkeley in 2019, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering. He then reported to Nuclear Power School, graduating with Honors with class 1907. Following Power School, LT Scarlett qualified as Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW) on MTS 635, USS SAMUEL RAYBURN, in Charleston, SC.

His first operational assignment was aboard USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN-735), where he served as the Chemistry-Radiological Controls Assistant, Communications Officer, Damage Control Assistant, and Assistant Operations Officer. Aboard PENNSYLVANIA, he completed two strategic deterrent patrols and two drydocking periods, including bringing the ship into Puget

Sound Naval Shipyard for an Extended Refit Period.

LT Scarlett currently serves as the Nuclear Propulsion Officer at NROTC University of Idaho where he is pursuing a Masters of Engineering in Chemical Engineering. In his spare time, LT Scarlett enjoys running, skiing, and attending electronic dance music concerts.



Captain Shannon Hart, Marine Officer Instructor



Capt Shannon E. Hart hails from Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and reported to the United States Naval Academy in June 2016. Capt Hart graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science in May 2020. She completed The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia in April 2021 and Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course in Fort Sill, Oklahoma in September 2021.

Capt Hart reported to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines (3/12) in September 2021, where she served as a Fire Direction Officer with East Battery Alpha 1st Battalion, 10th Marines for Artillery Relocation Training Program (ARTP) 21.3. In January 2022, she reported to Winter Mountain Leader's Course in Bridgeport, California. Upon graduation, Capt Hart returned to 3/12 and reported to East Battery Bravo 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, and served as Guns Platoon Commander and executed ARTP 22.1.

In August 2022, Capt Hart transitioned to Battalion Staff and became 3/12's Battalion Fire Direction Officer and served in this capacity for Resolute Dragon 22. She then deployed with the 31st MEU aboard the USS America as the 31st MEU's HIMARS detachment Fire Direction Officer for the 23.1 deployment. She served as the 31st MEU's lead Fires Planner for Talisman Sabre 23 in April 2023.

Upon returning to 3/12, she resumed duties as the Battalion Fire Direction Officer, serving in this role for ARTP 23.1. Capt Hart then took over as Headquarters Battery Executive Officer, where she served for ARTP 23.2 in July 2023. She then transitioned to serving as the Battalion's Assistant Logistics Officer and ARTP Coordinator, where she served for ARTP 23.3 in November 2023 and ARTP 23.4 in March of 2024. Capt Hart reported to the University of Idaho in May 2024 to take over as the NROTC unit's Marine Officer Instructor (MOI).



Gunnery Sergeant Gleich, Assistant Marine Officer Instructor



Before reporting to NROTC UI/WSU as the new AMOI, Gunnery Sergeant Gleich was serving as the S-4 Chief for the battalions Inspector-Instructor staff. He hails from Helena, MT where he was born and raised. He enlisted in the Marine Corps delayed entry program on September 28, 2007, and reported to recruit training on July 7, 2008 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, C.A.

Upon graduating from boot camp and Marine Corps Combat Training, Private Gleich attended the Basic Automotive Maintenance course at Camp Johnson, North Carolina where he received the Military Occupational Specialty 3521, Motor Transport Mechanic and graduated at the top of his class. He was subsequently promoted meritoriously to Lance Corporal.

In March of 2009, he received orders to Combat Logistics Regiment 1, General Support Motor Transport Company, Camp Pendleton, CA. While assigned to GSMT, he performed the duties of Line Mechanic and

Quality Control. He was deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom in September 2009 where he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal in April 2010.

In April 2012, Corporal Gleich received orders to report to 1st Battalion 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Upon arrival he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. During his tour, Sergeant Gleich held the billets of Floor Chief, Quality Control and Motor Transport Maintenance Chief.

In July of 2014, Sergeant Gleich received orders to Drill Instructor School aboard MCRD San Diego, CA. Upon graduation Sergeant Gleich was assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Recruit training Battalion where he served as a Drill Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor. On October 1st 2016 he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and then assigned to India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion where he served as a Chief Drill Instructor.

In September 2017 Staff Sergeant Gleich received orders to 1st Maintenance Battalion at Camp Pendleton, CA where he served as Battalion's organic Motor Transport Maintenance Chief.

In September of 2020, Staff Sergeant Gleich received orders to Combat Logistics Battalion 23 aboard Joint Base Lewis-McChord and is currently serving as an Inspector-Instructor staff member. In August of 2021 he was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. As a member of CLB 23, Gunnery Sergeant Gleich's billets included: Motor Transport Chief, Ground Safety Manager, Facilities Manager, Ammo Chief, SACO, and Environmental Compliance Officer and Licensing Officer. Gunnery Sergeant Gleich is currently the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at the University of Idaho/Washington State University NROTC Unit.

Gunnery Sergeant Gleich's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy And Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 awards).

Civilian Staff



Leonard Johnson—University Liaison

Mr. Johnson enlisted in the United States Army in 1982 and served in the Infantry as a Paratrooper and Ranger out of Ft. Bragg and Ft. Lewis. He was honorably discharged in 1986.

Leonard graduated from California Polytechnical school with a B.S. in Political Science in 1992 and earned his M.S. in Space Studies from University of North Dakota in 2001. He went on to serve as a contractor to the United States Air Force providing weather satellite acquisition services out of Washington, DC, for the next nine years.

Leonard has served as the Administrative Coordinator at the UI/WSU NROTC battalion since 2015.



Anthony Rabaiotti—Supply Officer

Mr. Anthony Rabaiotti, a native of East Providence, Rhode Island, attended Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology (Pre-Medicine). In 1998, he completed his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from Des Moines University and also completed a second Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. After completing residency at the Togus VAMC in Augusta, Maine, he worked in the civilian sector as a Podiatrist in New York City, New York.

Mr. Rabaiotti was commissioned in 2001 after completing Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida and his initial duty station as a Commissioned Officer was as the Main Propulsion Officer (MPO1) aboard the USS Detroit (AOE-4) stationed in Earle, New Jersey. He commissioned as a line side Surface Warfare Officer due to absence of Podiatry billets at the time. He qualified as Surface Warfare Officer and Engineering Officer of the Watch (steam) aboard the USS Detroit and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Completing lateral transfer in 2005, he was stationed at Naval Branch Health Clinic Naval Training Center, San Diego, CA from 2005 to 2009 as Division Officer of Podiatry. His second tour was as Orthopedics Department Head, Naval Health Clinic Annapolis, MD from 2009 to 2012. He has completed a tour as staff Podiatrist at Naval Branch Health Clinic Naval Training Center, San Diego, CA from 2017 to 2019. From 2019 to 2023, Mr. Rabaiotti was stationed in Moscow, Idaho as the Executive Officer for the NROTC programs of the University Idaho and Washington State University. He served as the Supply Officer for NROTC University of Idaho from July 2024 to March 2025.

Battalion Members

Navy Option Midshipmen



MIDN Beuchert



MIDN Bonds



MIDN Brown



MIDN Calo



MIDN Canavan



MIDN Cato



MIDN Chatman



MIDN Coeuille



MIDN Crecelius



MIDN Farnworth



MIDN Furr



MIDN Garcia



MIDN Griffith



MIDN Hannah



MIDN Hapiuk



MIDN Harris



MIDN Hein



MIDN Hernandez, A.



MIDN Hernandez, E.



MIDN Hernandez, J.



MIDN Jackson



MIDN Keffe



MIDN Kelly



MIDN Kincaid



MIDN Kranzler



MIDN Latta



*MIDN Lopez-
Ballester*



MIDN Miller



MIDN Mills



MIDN Mock



MIDN Palid



MIDN Pieper



MIDN Rodzinka



MIDN Roy



MIDN Skelton



MIDN Smith



MIDN Southard



MIDN Strickland



MIDN Turner



MIDN Wehe



MIDN White



MIDN Wuethrich



MIDN Vieira

Officer Candidates



OC Jones



OC King



OC Krische



OC Marsh



OC Miller



OC Mitchell

MECEPS



GySgt Auger



GySgt Siebring



Sgt Woodside

Marine Option Midshipmen



MIDN Blackmon



MIDN Brooks



MIDN Carie



MIDN Cyphers



MIDN Dotson



MIDN Eckstrom



MIDN Figueredo



MIDN Hatch



MIDN Hough



MIDN Jimenez



MIDN Kraft



MIDN Percival



MIDN Tharsing



MIDN Trussell



MIDN Walden



MIDN Westcott

Summer Training

COTRAMID

Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen (COTRAMID) is a summer training program designed for NROTC Midshipmen to explore the different warfare communities within the Navy and Marine Corps. The program allows each midshipman to rotate through four major communities—Aviation, Surface Warfare, Submarines, and the Marine Corps—spending about a week immersed in each. I began my COTRAMID experience at Camp Pendleton for Marine Week, where we were introduced to various Marine Corps specialties. My favorite part of the week was the Immersion Infantry Training (IIT), where we practiced buddy rushing and room clearing, and learned about the role of Navy corpsmen. At the end of that training day, we participated in a Field Exercise (FEX)-type scenario that required us to apply everything we learned in a simulated mission environment.



For Surface Warfare week, I embarked on an LPD during their Family Day cruise, where I observed daily shipboard life, watched the flooding of the well deck, and had the opportunity to steer the ship. A highlight of that week was getting a special tour of the USS Abraham Lincoln, and receiving an introduction to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal community. Aviation Week followed, and I had the experience of flying in a T-34 trainer aircraft, and experienced helicopter operations through a flight simulation. Finally, during Submarine Week, I stayed overnight aboard the USS Nevada, where I learned firsthand what life is like on a submarine. One of the lieutenants even taught me how to play cribbage. Each week gave me a deeper appreciation for the different paths available in the Navy and helped me better understand where I might fit within the fleet.

MIDN 3/C Wehe, Class of 2028

New Student Indoctrination (NSI)



New Student Indoctrination (NSI) is the foundational military training for all incoming Navy ROTC midshipmen nationwide, held at Naval Station Great Lakes.

The training at NSI is mentally and physically demanding. From 3 a.m. wakeups to long days filled with drills, inspections, classroom instruction, PT, and countless hours standing at attention, candidates are pushed to their limits. The yelling is constant, the standards are high, and the pace never slows. Yet, in chaos, every challenge is designed to test character, grit, and leadership potential. Through mentorship from RDCs, Gunnery Sergeants, Chiefs, and Midshipman Instructors (MIs), we learned a lot about our upcoming roles as officers and what's to be expected of us.

Completing NSI Session II in the summer of 2024 alongside 655 others was one of the proudest moments of my life. I'll never forget stepping off the bus not knowing quite what to expect — and certainly not expecting to make some incredible friends who are going down this path with me. The camaraderie I got to experience within my compartment was priceless. We trained together and grew together. From getting IT'd to arguing over laundry, every moment brought us closer and made the time there pass by easier. I am grateful for the memories and mentorship, and the friendships formed through hardship. I may not miss the early mornings or yelling, but I will carry this experience — and everything it taught me — into my next four years and beyond. Hooyah Delta II!

MIDN Chatman, Class of 2028

Surface Cruise

Over the summer for my 2/C Surface Cruise, I was assigned to the USS Harpers Ferry (LSD – 49). The Harpers Ferry is a dock landing ship attached to Naval Base San Diego. She is designed to carry Marines and their equipment, as well as deploy rotary aircraft and conduct small boat operations. The Harpers Ferry and her crew had just returned from deployment a few weeks prior and were conducting inspections for the majority of my time aboard. We were able to go underway a few times, during which I got to see both the bridge and the CIC in action. While on the bridge, I got to see use of some of the equipment I learned about in my Navigation class, including the Voyage Management System (VMS) and RADAR. I was also able to participate in a medical training evolution with the crew, where we simulated common injuries that can occur during an aircraft accident while the medical team provided quick evaluation and treatment. I was also able to assist in some of the inspections, including fitting newly ordered life vests with the proper equipment, preparing them for the next deployment. During my time aboard the USS Harpers Ferry, I had the opportunity to learn about life on a ship for both officers and enlisted, giving me a bit of valuable knowledge about life in the Navy.

MIDN Miller, Class of 2027

Submarine Cruise

During my time aboard the USS Maryland (SSBN 738) in Kings Bay, Georgia, I had the opportunity to observe and participate in a wide range of submarine operations. I spent time on the bridge during a night surface transit, gaining a unique perspective on navigation under cover of darkness. I also shadowed a junior officer in maneuvering as he worked toward qualifying as an Engineering Duty Officer, which gave me insight into the expectations and challenges faced during the qualification process. I participated in a security drill where a team of Sailors conducted a full sweep of the submarine, simulating the presence of an active assailant onboard. Later, I witnessed a steamline rupture drill in the engine room that caused the boat to execute a steep 20-degree up-angle—a dramatic reminder of how the crew trains for high-stress scenarios. I also learned to play cribbage, a traditional and much-loved game in submarine culture that helps pass time on long patrols. One particularly memorable experience was a periscope depth trip during a tropical storm, where the boat rocked heavily back and forth as we attempted to receive communications through the rough seas.

MIDN Mills, Class of 2025



Officer Candidate School (OCS)

My experience at Officer Candidate School (OCS) for the United States Marine Corps was a defining period of my life. From the moment I arrived, I was immersed in a high-pressure environment designed to test not only physical endurance but also mental resilience, leadership ability, and moral character. The days were long and grueling, filled with intense physical training, tactical field exercises, academic challenges, and constant evaluations from the staff. I quickly learned that success at OCS demanded more than just strength — it required adaptability, humility, and relentless determination. Through the chaos and exhaustion, I developed a profound respect for the Corps and the Marines around me.

Looking back, I often describe it as the “best experience I never want to have again.” That phrase perfectly captures the contradiction of OCS. It pushed me beyond what I thought possible, instilled values I’ll carry forever, and forged lifelong bonds. Yet, the mental and physical toll was immense, and I wouldn’t voluntarily relive it. It’s not something you enjoy in the moment, but rather something you appreciate once it’s over. OCS is a rite of passage, and though I never want to go through it again, I’m grateful I did. It proved to me, and to the Marine Corps, that I was capable of leading Marines.

MIDN Hatch, Class of 2025

New Student Orientation (NSO)

Having gone through New Student Indoctrination at Naval Station Great Lakes over the summer, I found that New Student Orientation was much of the same. Much like NSI, NSO began with a shock. After meeting the Unit Staff and being welcomed by our Commanding Officer, Captain Brunson, the new batch of first-year students was immediately thrown into fire as we met our Gunnery Sergeant who introducing himself to us by shouting about how we need to get out of our chairs and move outside. Immediately, we were bombarded by the upper-class Midshipman instructors' screams and told that we lost the right to pronouns and were now called candidates, as we had yet to earn the title of Midshipman.

Following the bombardment of shouts and a long march throughout the campus we were welcomed to the Unit Spaces in Hays Hall. While here we were able to better familiarize ourselves with our spaces, as well as work our way through a mountain of paperwork to ensure each one of us was properly processed. While in the unit spaces, we were also introduced to the OCs and MCEPs that were also part of the battalion and told to heed their advice because as prior enlisted they could provide greater insight into how to be a good leader in the fleet. Once we finished processing, we then began to receive briefings about how the unit operates, the history of the fleet, how the fleet operates, and what it takes to be a strong leader.

Following this, we then went to Guy Wicks field early for our afternoon physical training session. The work out was hard, as it was just a repetitive cycle of burpees, pushups, sprints, and squats under the blistering Idaho sun while getting constantly yelled at by those running NSO.

After Running a Physical Readiness Test on the second morning, the second and third days were much the same. The day began with a morning PT session at guy wicks at 0600, followed by a few hours classroom briefs, campus tours, or just general familiarization with the unit. The day would then end with another PT session in the blistering heat until we were finally dismissed.



The last day of NSO was easily the best. The morning PT allowed the candidates to work with the upper-class Midshipmen in a series of squad events. It was the first time that it felt like we were part of the unit, as we could work with our instructors instead of for them. The day then ended with all the candidates being sworn in by our CO as members of the battalion. It was an incredibly joyous moment for all of us, as we had finally earned the right to call ourselves midshipmen.

Overall, NSO was an incredibly useful experience that brought up the entire incoming class of fourth-class midshipmen to be successful. In a few short days we were all able to meet all the unit and battalion staff and understand their roles, better understand USN/USMC/DOD organizational structure, develop a clear chain of command, learn about how the unit functions, and familiarize ourselves with unit spaces. However, the most important thing that NSO did was help to develop a strong sense of comradery among the current Fourth-Class Midshipmen. At the start of NSO, we were all just a group of strangers from all over the country with not much in common except a desire to become an officer in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. However, after having to all go through the shared hardships and difficulties of NSO, we came out as a group of friends ready to take on the next four years together as a team.

MIDN Crecelius, Class of 2028

Northwest Navy (NWN)

We had the incredible honor of hosting Northwest Navy (NWN) in the Spring of 2025 at the University of Idaho and Washington State University NROTC. This was a moment of pride for our unit and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. From the very beginning, our team came together with enthusiasm, commitment, and a shared sense of purpose to make this year's NWN unique and memorable.

This year, we truly made NWN our own. The addition of new events was a major highlight and brought a fresh energy to the competition. One of the most memorable moments was wrestling, which was held outdoors. The weekend was a resounding success and showcased the grit and determination of every participant. The camaraderie, sportsmanship, and healthy rivalry throughout the entire weekend reflected the best of what NWN represents.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Oregon State University and the University of Washington for bringing strong competition and spirited teamwork. Your participation pushed everyone to perform at their best and helped elevate the entire experience. The competitive atmosphere, balanced with mutual respect, was everything we hoped it would be.

Special recognition and appreciation must go to the event coordinators, team captains, and MIDN Brooks who made this event possible. The amount of time and effort put into the planning, logistics, and execution of NWN 2025 cannot be overstated. From coordinating venues and transportation to ensuring that everyone was well-fed and well-informed, your dedication made all the difference.

What stood out most over the weekend was the leadership, professionalism, and unit pride displayed by all participants. Whether on the field, in the pool, or cheering from the sidelines, the sense of unity and respect was powerful. It reminded us of why we train, compete, and serve; because we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to NWN 2025. We are proud to have hosted and proud to be part of this incredible community.



OC Jones, Class of 2026



Navy and Marine Corps Ball

The Navy and Marine Corps Ball is an annual celebration that honors the founding of both the United States Navy and Marine Corps. It is a time-honored tradition in each service, celebrated with pride and respect every year. Every year our unit shares the distinct honor of participating in this event, where we celebrate not only the rich history of these branches but also the dedication and sacrifices of those who serve.

The evening began with a formal ceremony that included the presentation of the colors, a sword detail, and the reading of a birthday message for the Marine Corps and a birthday message for the Navy. One highlight of the event was the cake-cutting ceremony, where the oldest and youngest Marines shared the first piece of cake, symbolizing the continuity of service across generations. This moment was followed by a spirited dinner, and as the night continued, the dance floor came alive with both Midshipmen and Officers enjoying the celebration.

The Navy and Marine Corps Ball is more than just a formal event; it is a time for service members, veterans, and their families to come together in honor of the history, achievements, and sacrifices of the Navy and Marine Corps. It also offers a unique opportunity for our Midshipmen to reflect on the importance of service and brotherhood. The University of Idaho and Washington State University's NROTC battalion is proud to be part of this tradition, instilling a sense of pride and camaraderie among our Midshipmen while celebrating the legacy of those who served before us.

MIDN Brooks, Class of 2026



FEX

On November 1st, 2025, Semper Fi conducted the end-of-semester field exercise (FEX) beginning with a 9-mile hike from the University of Idaho Memorial Gymnasium to the top of Paradise Ridge. The hike and exercise aimed to develop endurance and train midshipmen in skills needed to be successful during Officer Candidate School, The Basic School, and later, the Fleet Marine Force. During this hike, MIDN were expected to carry between 50-70 lbs. of gear from the starting location to the finish. Before the exercise, the platoon was briefed on the notional enemy who they would encounter while in the exercise area. Upon reaching the objective location MIDN were given a class on the construction of defensive positions and were able to build some themselves. Following this they patrolled to various stations where they executed Small Unit Leadership Evaluations (SULE). These scenarios were designed to test the ability of the Squad and Fire Team leaders to act under pressure. One consisted of “Live Fire” paintball to familiarize MIDN with what they should do when receiving and returning fire. Another station placed the squad in a close-in-fighting scenario where they were required to grapple and subdue notional “enemy prisoners” they were guarding. The last station as well as the culminating event consisted of a resupply run where the movement of equipment and supplies from their location to a friendly location under the cover of darkness was required. Roughly 35 personnel participated or aided in the conduct of the events which began at 0900 and ended at 2200. The Fall FEX was successful thanks to the hard work of the MIDN participants as well as the volunteers who acted as the opposing force. The unit was able to test new methods of training and to further refine existing ones for future use.

GySgt Siebring, Class of 2027



Men's Basketball PT

The Men's Basketball Integration PT event brought together battalion members and UI athletes for a morning of fitness, teamwork, and camaraderie. This PT session was designed to build cohesion, foster healthy competition, and emphasize the importance of physical readiness. Held on the UI Kibbie Dome field, the event included a modified CFT that consisted of a 400-yard sprint along the Kibbie Dome field, a max set of repetitions of ammo-can presses in the allotted time of 2 minutes, and the “Maneuver Under Fire” event, which included sprints, bear crawls, running with ammo-cans, and even a grenade toss. Following our modified CFT, we had a worm workout which included a set of continuous exercises such as lunges, overhead presses, and stagnant squat holds, conducted by each squad of 6. We concluded the event with the Down Vandal scenario where the squads had to construct a contraption of items that involved wood planks, ropes, and straps to carry various loads including the worm for the simulated “down vandal” that needed an immediate resupply. These events were all structured to improve agility, endurance, and teamwork among participants.

The session began with a dynamic warm-up to prepare everyone for the physical demands of the activity. Once warmed up, the participants were divided into teams, each integrating both battalion members and UI Basketball Athletes. They competed against each other; each team determined to showcase their skills and bring home a victory for their team.

As the event drew to a close, players gathered for a final huddle, reflecting on the day's achievements and the importance of staying connected as a unit. The Men's Basketball Integration PT was not just a chance to improve individual physical fitness but also a meaningful opportunity to strengthen bonds within the team, promoting morale and reinforcing the sense of unity that drives the mission forward.

MIDN Garcia, Class of 2026



Close-Quarters Battle

During the spring semester, the UI/WSU NROTC Unit conducted close-quarters battle (CQB) training, preparing future Navy and Marine Corps officers for the challenges they may face in combat situations. Throughout the training, Midshipmen are exposed to various scenarios that mimic real-world urban warfare environments, honing their tactical skills, decision-making abilities, and teamwork under pressure.

At the end of the semester, their skills were put to test in a culminating event. In this scenario, Midshipmen, MECEPs, and Officer Candidates are put into an unfamiliar location with their respective squads and are met with opposing forces throughout the building. They must navigate through tight spaces, communicate effectively, and make split-second decisions in a high-stress situation. Whether it's breaching doors, clearing rooms, or responding to ambushes, every aspect of CQB is meticulously practiced and evaluated.

This training not only instills confidence and proficiency in Midshipmen but also fosters a mindset of adaptability and resilience. As future commissioned officers, these individuals will likely find themselves leading teams in dynamic and unpredictable environments. The skills and experiences gained through CQB training enable them to effectively mitigate threats, protect their personnel, and accomplish mission objectives with precision and agility, ensuring they are well-prepared to face the challenges of the fleet head-on.



Roadside Cleanup



In March, the University of Idaho and Washington State University Battalion volunteered to clean up litter on the side of Highway 8 towards Troy, ID. This event is the result of maintaining the unit's "Adopt a Highway" presence. Battalion members split up into two groups, each starting at different mile posts and working their way towards each other. This was a great way for the Battalion members to earn volunteer hours and help the community. Spending a Saturday morning on this task not only reinforces a sense of responsibility but also builds camaraderie. Members of the battalion were able to connect in a relaxed setting and grow as a team. This tradition simultaneously brings the battalion together while serving the community, and will continue in future semesters.



Senior Mess Night

Senior Mess Night is an annual event held before graduation. Upcoming graduates participate in this "dining in" experience, which is a formal dinner where guests are not allowed. This tradition not only serves as a farewell to departing Midshipmen but also reaffirms the values and traditions upheld at the UI/WSU NROTC Unit.



Battalion Members of the Semester

Congratulations to MIDN Teague Furr and MIDN Ian Westcott for earning Battalion Member of the Semester awards, for the Fall and Spring semesters, respectively. This is a very difficult award to achieve and is reserved for Battalion members who exemplify leadership and dedication to the NROTC mission.



Fall Commissioning

The Fall 2024 Commissioning Ceremony welcomed six new officers into the fleet: Ensign Bonds, Ensign Amy Hernandez, Ensign Emily Hernandez, Ensign Thomas Hein, Ensign Jo Rodzinka, and Second Lieutenant Devin Auger. It was a well-deserved ceremony that was witnessed by the people who made these new officers who they are and who will continue to support them while they are leading abroad. We were very honored to have CDR Brad Little as our Commissioning Ceremony guest of honor.



Spring Commissioning

The Spring 2025 Commissioning Ceremony welcomed three new officers into the fleet: Second Lieutenant Noah Blackmon, Second Lieutenant Jun Figueredo, and Second Lieutenant Miles Hatch. We were very honored to have Sgt Major Joshua Figueredo as our Commissioning Ceremony guest of honor. It was a well-deserved ceremony that was witnessed by the people who made these new officers who they are and who will continue to support them while they are leading abroad. Lead well and do us proud. Fair winds and following seas!



Spring Awards Ceremony

Every spring, an award ceremony is held to acknowledge the hard work put in by the battalion members and staff, while also announcing the change in battalion leadership for the upcoming semester. This year, the ceremony was held outdoors, creating a more relaxed environment for battalion members, guests, and award donors. Congratulations to all the hard working battalion members who were awarded or earned scholarships at the annual Spring Awards.



About the Funds

Please direct questions to the Administrative Office at 208-885-6333 or navyrotc@uidaho.edu.

University of Idaho

Naval ROTC General Fund: Donor generosity is an essential source of funding for events such as the Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Commissioning Ceremonies, New Student Orientation, and other student led events.

Roderick Mayer Naval Alumni Scholarship: The Roderick Mayer Alumni Scholarship is awarded to a Navy option student and includes a \$2000 scholarship. CDR Mayer graduated and commissioned from the UI in 1961 with a degree in mathematics. An F-4 Phantom pilot, he flew more than 70 combat missions over North Vietnam. CDR Mayer was shot down on October 17, 1965, and while initially being classified as a POW, CDR Mayer's status was changed to KIA. Today, his flight jacket hangs proudly in the UI NROTC spaces.

Alex Wetherbee Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship is given to a Marine option that shows exceptional leadership and academic acumen, studies forest or natural resources at the UI, has a great love of the outdoors, and includes a \$2500 scholarship. The Alex Wetherbee memorial scholarship is dedicated to 1stLt Alexander E. Wetherbee. Upon graduation from the NROTC program at UI, 1stLt Wetherbee was assigned to the 3rd assault amphibian battalion at Camp Pendleton, CA. On his second combat deployment to Iraq, 1stLt Wetherbee was fighting as a platoon commander near Fallujah when he was KIA on September 12th, 2004.

Don S. Campbell Leadership Award: The Don Campbell award for leadership is given to both a Navy-option senior (Naval Officer's sword) and junior (\$500 scholarship). CAPT Donald Stile Campbell Jr. was a previous Professor of Naval Science at the University of Idaho. He served aboard ships and submarines and served his command tours aboard USS CONYNGHAM (DDG 17) and USS CAMDEN (AOE 2). CAPT Campbell passed away in 2009 from natural causes.

Murphy-Sweet Memorial Scholarship Endowment: This award is given to a member of the battalion who demonstrates leadership, academic achievement, and a sense of community, including a \$485 scholarship. Born on November 5th, 1967, CDR Philip Murphy-Sweet's long Navy career began with his enlistment and assignment as a US Navy Corpsman in 1984. While stationed in Iraq, CDR Murphy-Sweet suffered fatal injuries from an Improvised Explosive Device during Operation Iraqi Freedom and died on April 7th, 2007.

The Claud and Diana Wilhite Scholarship Endowment: The Wilhite NROTC Scholarship is given to a high performing member of the BN who has had an immediate impact on their peers through their leadership by example; the award includes a \$500 scholarship. This endowment was created to recognize the Wilhite's association with the University of Idaho and the impact that higher education, as well as Navy ROTC, has had on their lives.

Washington State University

Ensign Craig Gmur Memorial Scholarship (called the Navy/ROTC Scholarship Fund online): This award is given to a member of the battalion who shows an exceptional ability to balance academic rigors and ROTC obligations and includes a \$500 scholarship. ENS Craig Gmur was a WSU Alumni and graduate of the NROTC program. An MH-60S pilot, he died in a car accident on November 3rd, 2007 at the age of 24.

Naval ROTC Development Fund: Donor generosity is an essential source of funding for events such as the Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Commissioning Ceremonies, New Student Orientation, and other student led events.

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