

THE HELM

Official Newsletter of the Tulane University NROTC Program

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Members of the Freshman class and Unit Staff pause for a photo opportunity with a P-3C Orion at NAS Belle Chasse

INSIGHT ON FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

By MIDN 4/C Thomas

Now, two months later, taking a trip home in a Boeing 757, I think back to my first days at Tulane and my first experience with the Navy. In a bit less fashionable manner, I arrived at Tulane with my parents in our big conversion van packed with all of the junk I brought with me. That next phase in my life was beginning, and it began that day. Orientation started off nice and easy; we checked in, unloaded our stuff, and then met for our very first brief. We, the NROTC class of 2007, all came from different places and had different backgrounds, but that afternoon we took our first step towards unity as we all took our oath to the United States Navy. The day continued with paper work, finger printing, studying, hydrating, and a "What Would John Paul Jones Do" attitude as we gathered our sea-bags together. Then it was time for chow and, later, time to load the bus and head to Belle Chase. Well, the bus had a rather "leaky" ceiling, drenching a hand full of us with every turn, acceleration, or stop. As the ride to our destination drudged on, we could all feel the effects of hydration on our bodies, but we soon realized that making a head call would be the last thing on our minds.

As we drove by our barracks we noticed all of the people in khaki uniforms and combination covers standing by them. The bus turned around and we stopped next

to all of those people in khaki uniforms.

Silence over came the bus as one of the uniformed people rushed through the aisle shouting for silence. Then, Gunnery Sergeant entered the scene; we are HIS now. It wasn't all bad; we got to play a few games that night. We played: "Get off the bus, get on the bus!!" "Get on my grass, get on your gear!!" and the favorite of all "Get on your face, back, feet!!" After playtime was over, we got a quick run through on our uniforms and a short break with Major Thomasson. Difficulties were mounting mighty high that night as some of us had problems with stitch witchery and others had problems with their black shoes being white.



GYSGT Hurdle provides "gentle" guidance to a Freshman during Orientation

By the time we got to bed it seemed like it was already time for PT. After PT, we learned some basic drill and then trekked over to breakfast. On the first day, we were divided into Starboard and Port platoons (listed in order of excellence in my opinion).

We became united as midshipmen in our platoons and as a whole class. We did this during our trips and experiences throughout orientation. Later in orientation, we took a more relaxed trip to Belle Chase to explore the world of P-3 Orions, check out different helos, get IDs, watch some practice dog fights, sub tracking, and a lucky few got to watch the video about all the fun times there are to be had on a submarine. Our trip to the Yacht Club was the most relaxing. We spent an afternoon sailing on Lake Pontchartrain, learning the "Rules of the Road," and taking a sailing test, but, the most important memory, was the taste of those delicious

MRE's we dined on for lunch. YUM! One of the most outstanding experiences of orientation was the speech given to us by Major General Livingston retired from the United States Marine Corps, who as a Captain was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry against forces in Vietnam. He filled us with the true spirit of the Marine Corps and the military in general.



Freshmen count off their push ups during the PRT

Through motivation checks at chow, marching around campus, helping one another move into dorms, and all the other activities of orientation, we learned to work as a team and stop thinking of only ourselves. We came along way from that first day of orientation. After the CO's inspection and the family picnic, we could all feel proud of being part of the Navy, and the fighting spirit of the Navy filled our bodies. Qualities that we learned at orientation will stick with us and keep us striving to be the best that we can be while serving our country.

11 SEP 03 CEREMONY

By MIDN 4/C Warshaw

The soft footsteps of white leather shoes befell the lightly dewed grass of Newcomb quad long before any light from the sun dared to expose the procession marching towards a solitary flagpole. As the graying sky of morning progressively illuminated the picture, the low murmur of a vast, rapidly gathering assembly shattered the serenity of the picturesque daybreak.

The sun dawned on September 11, 2003, and America took a moment to reflect on an event when time itself stopped. Quickly occupying one corner of Newcomb quad, the NROTC Battalion of Midshipmen bleached the green grass with the crisp splendor of its summer white uniforms; an ironic twist that such beauty should coexist with the deep solemnity of the occasion. Trickling in the opposing corner of the quadrangle, the AROTC and AFROTC units introduced sky blue uniforms and jungle camouflage to the small mosaic of the Armed Forces of the United States.

At the formation of all three Reserve Officer Training Corps units, the Joint Color Guard detail conducted the raising of our national ensign followed by its lowering to half-mast. Punctuating the moment, the color guard units rendered salute to the flag heralded as a symbol of the determination and tenacity of the United States. The flag reminded everyone that the United States will face down any and all adversaries. Terrorism and the war against it may very well exist as long as the earth turns; however, let history know that one nation did not stand down nor bend over and crawl before murderers. Mark down that this nation has led the world in routing the last vestiges of state harbored terrorism; and that to this day she continues to feel the immense pain and sorrow inflicted upon her two years ago. In honor of the events of September 11, 2001, the members of Tulane's Reserve Officer Training Corps stood vigilant and were ready to take their rightful place in defending the United States of America.



The Unit's Color Guard and Battalion pay their respects to the victims of September 11

RAIDERS: SOME CALL US CRAZY

By MIDN 4/C Rousel

For those early birds who enjoy getting up at the crack of dawn, you may have seen us before. By "us," I mean the all green-wearing war machines that wake up bright and early for some good old fashioned Marine Corps training. The dedicated group of people I'm speaking of are none other than the specialty "Raiders" unit of Tulane's NROTC program.



MIDN 3/C Ladd negotiates a "sticky" situation

For those NROTC midshipmen who take an interest in the United States Marine Corps or in Navy Special Operations teams, participation in Raiders is an absolute must. Not only does it prepare midshipmen for the rigorous training of Marine Corps Officer Candidate School ("Bulldog") or Basic Underwater Demolition/SEALs training (Mini BUDS), but it also provides midshipmen with an idea of what life as a Marine or a SEAL would be like. It helps midshipmen recognize the demanding lifestyle that every Marine or SEAL has, both in rigorous physical training, as well as in developing the mental stamina that both Marines and SEALs must have in order to face the high degree of stress in the face of immediate danger.

Before I joined Raiders my interests lay in Nuclear Power and in the Marine Corps, two very different, but equally rewarding careers in the Naval Service. After spending a full semester on Raiders, I've realized that a career in Nuclear Power is the life for me. However, my admiration

and respect for the Marine Corps and for the Navy Special Operations remains strong. In Raiders I found myself being challenged physically more than ever before. Raiders has also helped me develop a stronger level of "mental toughness," which is really what gets me through the early morning runs, as well as through the arduous Field Exercises (FEX).

All in all, and despite a couple of times when I let my mind defeat me, I've met every challenge presented by Raiders head on. Each time I have grown stronger physically and mentally. I stand proudly with my fellow Raiders and give a loud "HOORAH" out to all the United States Marines and Navy Special Operation Units all over in the world.

ANNUAL HOMECOMING TAILGATER

By MIDN 3/C Balsamo

The annual homecoming tailgater was held on 11 October 03 at Tad Gormley Stadium in City Park. Although the weather was gloomy, the event was a success. Midshipmen were busy cooking hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill, introducing family members to other midshipmen, and mingling with Tulane NROTC alumni. The NROTC tailgating tent was the liveliest tent in the area. When the Homecoming parade passed by the tent, the NROTC crowd screamed for beads and waved at friends on floats. Everyone truly enjoyed the atmosphere and was ready to pull for the Green Wave against the Houston Cougars. The unit's involvement in homecoming did not end there.



Midshipmen, parents, and Alumni enjoy the comforts of the NROTC tent at the Homecoming game.

The Colorguard represented the unit proudly at the beginning of the football game. MIDN 3/C Ladd led MIDN 4/C Reese, MIDN 4/C Warshaw, and MIDN 4/C Giffen across the football field looking sharp in their dress whites. After a weekend of fun, tradition, and competition, there is just one question that need to be asked: what would homecoming at Tulane be without the NROTC?



MIDN 4/C Ronksley shows off his award-winning costume

HALLOWEEN PT

By MIDN 4/C Petty

On Thursday, October 30th, the Tulane NROTC Battalion held its annual Halloween PT session. Before the sun was up, we mustered in front of the Reily Recreation Center with no idea of what was going to happen. We began the morning with the usual mobility laps around the athletic quad. It was a humorous sight to see the unit, all dressed up for the Halloween festivities, attempt to perform the laps. There were midshipmen dressed as warriors from "Braveheart" to Neo from "The Matrix." Every type of costume imaginable was displayed on the field! We soon learned that the battalion would play two massive games of Ultimate Frisbee: the freshmen versus the sophomores, and the juniors versus the

seniors. The freshmen clearly won despite the sophomores attempts to cheat when the referees were distracted by the music from a Mariachi Band! MIDC 4/C Ronksley won the prize for "Best Individual Costume," as he strut his way across the field as "Superman with a 'Fro.'" The prize for "Best Group Costume" clearly went to "The Guys from Clockwork Orange," which included MIDN 3/C Dye, Thrasher, Albayrak, and Westerfield. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to next year!



MAJ Thomasson, LT Brandhuber, and CAPT Morrow join in the Halloween PT festivities

The USS Normandy

By MIDN 4/C Dibble

Going to the Mississippi River and seeing ships is not an uncommon occurrence, since New Orleans has one of the busiest ports in the country. However, going there and seeing a Ticonderoga Class Guided Missile Cruiser is an uncommon sight. On November 8th, a group of midshipmen, lead by LT Brandhuber and LT McCall, toured the USS Normandy (CG-60), moored at Governor Nichols Wharf by Jackson Square. She was in port for a D-Day ceremony in conjunction with the D-Day Museum, as her name is very symbolic of the event.

After boarding, we went to the wardroom, where we saw a presentation of the ship's capabilities, history, and mission. We were then led on a walking tour of the ship after the presentation. The engine room looked almost outdated, with its large panels, switches and dials – a far cry from the sleeker, modern look that we see on a

day-to-day basis. The Normandy is still driven by four DC-9 jet engines. From flank speed (30+ knots), the ship can stop within its length (567 feet).

The ship had recently redone the enlisted mess; and it looked a lot like a restaurant, with restaurant-style tables and chairs. Officer and enlisted food comes from the same galley, which runs 24 hours a day. The officers' state rooms housed two to four people in bunk beds. While not spacious, it is definitely livable. We did not have the opportunity to compare them to enlisted berthing.

Continuing vertically in the ship, we went to the CIC – one of the most interesting and exciting places in the ship. It is the heart, soul and brain of any war ship. The Aegis system has screens in the front showing maps and contacts from different altitudes. There are stations for each weapon and control system. The most lethal and classified, the Tomahawks, have a curtain around their terminals when they are being launched.

The Captain's stateroom was a deck below the bridge. In his room, besides living quarters, he has equipment to monitor the ship's status. The ship is driven on the bridge and there is equipment to monitor the ship's position and heading.

Aft of the bridge is the CIWS, flight deck, missile deck, and five inch gun. The hanger can hold two folded helos. The forward deck is similar to the aft deck, with a five inch gun and missile deck. With two missile decks, the Normandy can carry up to 122 Tomahawks.

We all appreciated the opportunity to see the USS Normandy – perhaps our future assignment.



The USS Normandy (CG-60) in action

JROTC Drill Meet

By MIDN 1/C Adam

High schools from around the Southeast competed in the 14th annual JROTC Battle of New Orleans Drill Meet on 15 November 2003. Schools from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida competed in 7 events, including Platoon Inspection, Platoon Armed Basic Drill, Unarmed Platoon Basic Drill, Color Guard, Physical Fitness, Platoon Unarmed Exhibition and Platoon Armed Exhibition. At the Awards Ceremony, Pace High from Florida came away with the overall win. Pace was in the top three of every event. Jesuit High from New Orleans was second overall and and Robertsdale High from Alabama was third overall. MIDN 2/C Drake was the Drill Meet OIC and MIDN 2/C Scott was the Drill Meet XO. Both of these MIDN worked very hard and the drill meet was a complete success.



MIDN 3/C Macus makes notes during an inspection at the NJROTC Drill Meet

Change of Command Ceremony

By MIDN 3/C Balsamo

On 4 December 2003, Tulane's NROTC Unit had its traditional Change of Command ceremony. Dressed in service dress blues, the unit gathered for the ceremony in Woldenberg Art Center. The service truly reflected the performance of the unit as a whole during the Fall semester. Midn Adam, as PAO for the battalion, narrated the ceremony while the band chimed in with the traditional tunes of "The

Star Spangled Banner,” “Anchors Away,” and the “Marine Corps Hymn.” Before handing over his command, CO Allison gave a moving speech. He expressed his gratitude to the entire battalion for everyone’s excellent performance in academics, athletics, and unit activities during the Fall semester. He shared a story about how he use to think of his Navy Scholarship as a way to get through college, and how, throughout his midshipman career, he was able to find the real reason for his scholarship. He realized that it was his opportunity to defend the great nation in which we live. After his speech, he formally turned over his command as CO of the Battalion Staff to Midn 1/C Hagen. CO Hagen then spoke about her vision for the battalion for the Spring semester of 2004. CO Hagen, with obvious motivation to lead Tulane’s NROTC unit to another successful semester, said that she will demand a great deal from every midshipman and that her expectations were high. She wants to lead the unit to a higher level of excellence, and, in turn, continue to uphold the tradition of being one of the best NROTC Units in the nation.

Upcoming Events:

Auburn Drill Meet:	30-31 January
Senior Mess Night:	6 February
Mardi Gras Drill Meet:	20 February
Mardi Gras Break:	23-27 February
PFA/PFT:	25 March
Spring Break	9-11 April
Sail Day/Crawfish Boil:	10 April
Farewell Ball:	23 April
Change of Command Ceremony:	29 April
Last Day of Classes:	30 April
Tulane Commencement/ Tulane NROTC Commissioning:	22 May

Alumni Affairs

The Fall 2002 Helm featured the distinguished Tulane NROTC Class of 1943 alumnus and award winning journalist, Wilson F. “Bill” Minor. Among his early and little known works was as an editor of the 1942 *Taffrail Log*. The *Taffrail Log* is the Tulane NROTC yearbook (now referred to

as the *Log*). The 1942 edition has an outstanding history of the first four years of the unit. You can view the 1942 *Taffrail Log*, as well as many other editions, on the Tulane NROTC Alumni website at: <http://www.tulane.edu/~nrotc/alumni> under the link “Taffrail Log .”

The Tulane NROTC Alumni Association has greatly enhanced their website. It is easy to update your bio information and contact other alumnus on-line. There is also information about the project to archive the history of the early commissioning classes. Check it out at: <http://alumni.tulane.edu> under the link “Archive Project.”



The Taffrail Log

Kermit Corcoran '66 After leaving the USMC, began his own construction company. Currently doing consulting while attending University of North Carolina Engineering Program. Expected graduation in 2004.

Colin Corcoran '69 Retired as CDR in 1993. Joined U.S. Merchant Marine in 1996 obtained 1600 ton license and sailed tugs for Tidewater Marine. Currently sailing for Bean Dredging. Pursuing Third Mate Unlimited License.

Devron Eakins 2001. Currently on active duty and enjoying every minute of it. Will soon move from Anti-submarine Warfare Officer to the Force Protection Officer.

Bruce E. France, Sr. '76 Retired CDR working as a government contractor at the SPAWAR ITC at the Lakefront in New Orleans.

Frederick S. Frederickson, Jr. '42 Member of Tulane NROTC from 1939. Graduated in Engineering 1942 Served in WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam. Retired as LCDR, EDO. Worked at Avondale Shipyards as project manager for 31 years.

Andrew H. Jordan '91 US Naval Aviator from 1991 – 2000. Currently flying as a First Officer for Southwest Airlines

Chad J. Kennedy '95 Enjoying the Aloha at PMRF Barking Sands and flying the UH-3H and C-26.

Douglas P. Krugman 2001 Currently station in Camp Lejeune, NC as a rifle platoon commander with 1st Bn, 8th Marines. Preparing to deploy with the 26th MEU in early 2003.

Thomas M. Krupp '70 CDR, USN (ret) Currently Director of Investigations, Clarence M. Kelly and Associates, Inc., Kansas City, MO

Charles J. Lorio '83 After 6 years in reorganization/turnaround consulting with Price Waterhouse, joined the family office of Ross Perot to focus on private investment opportunities in 2000. Married to Natalie and live in Dallas with four children.

Seth W. MacCutcheon '99 Captain, USMC. Serving as Assistant Operations Officer; 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines.

Antoine S. Madere, Jr. '74 Resides in Baton Rouge, LA.

John Marke '74 Management consultant working with law firms and not-for-profit institutions in homeland security. Served on active duty from 1974 to 1979 with the naval air logistics community, and as a reserve officer with the naval security and naval intelligence community.

James L. McConnell '44 Enjoying life and its leisure in Slidell, LA.

Danny J. McDaniel '74 Retired from the Marine Corps on 1 Jul 2002 after 28 years service. Last assignment was Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, Miramar, CA. Moved to Huntsville, Texas and currently employed as the Assistant Director, Lowman Student Center.

Ralph L. McQueen, III '98 Flying SH-60F&H's with the Dragonslayers of HS-11 in Jacksonville, Florida. Deployed aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt for "Ironman Cruise" in support of Operation Enduring Freedom setting record of 158 continuous days at sea without a port call.

Michael H. McRee '86 Currently residing in Doylestown, PA. Working as a civil engineer specializing in water and wastewater treatment. Married, 2 children.

Brian S. Nelson '95 Back in NOLA since 2000 serving as Advertising/Marketing Officer for the 8th Marine Corps (Recruiting) District, which covers 13 western states. Made nearly 4 years in the fleet and 3 deployments before coming back to my 2nd home.

David F. O'Dell '95 Currently attending University of Michigan Master of Business Graduate program.

Russell S. Pomarico '95 Currently flying as a First Officer, United Express, on the Canadair Regional Jet (CL-65)

Nancy B. Rodda '97 Supply Officer at Defense Finance and Accounting Pacific, Ford Island, Hawaii

Tyrone P. Theriot '94 Currently on active duty at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Anne-Marie Ewing Theriot '94 Recalled to active duty in Feb 03 at Camp Pendleton, Ca. Ty and I have 2 children ages 4 and 20 months and we are expecting our third child in Aug 03.

Brian O. Wheaton 2000 Currently stationed
at HSL-37 on Kaneohe Bay Marine Base.

James A. Willsey '97 Instructor Naval
Nuclear Power Training Command
Charleston, SC.

