
THE HELM

Official newsletter of the Tulane University NROTC Program.

Spring 2004

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Commanding Officer
Professor of Naval Science

UNIT STAFF

MAJ T. W. Thomasson, USMC
Battalion Advisor
Marine Officer Instructor

LT B.C. Brandhuber, USN
Aviation Advisor
Freshman Class Advisor

LT M. N. McCall
Surface Warfare Advisor
Junior Class Advisor

LT K. C. Eisenreith, USN
Nuclear Power Advisor
Senior Class Advisor

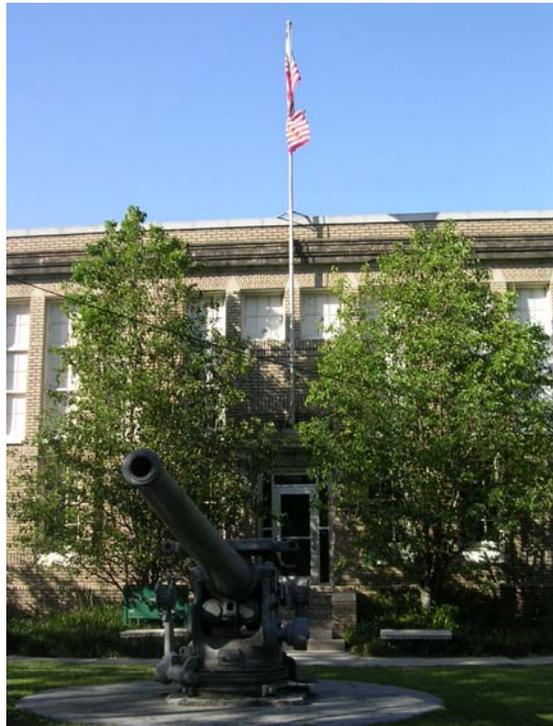
GYSGT M. A. Hurdle, USMC
Assistant Marine Officer Instructor

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Administrative Officer

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Supply Officer

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MIDN 2/C Christie
MIDN 3/C Balsamo
"The Helm" Editors

CDR E. A. Flores, USN
Executive Officer
Sophomore Class Advisor

BATTALION STAFF

MIDN 1/C Hagen
Commanding Officer

MIDN 1/C Jones
Executive Officer

MIDN 1/C Hicks
Adjutant

OC Robinson
Intelligence Officer

MIDN 2/C Recore
Operations Officer

MIDN 1/C Donahue-Villani
Logistics Officer

MIDN 1/C Lee
Communications Officer

MIDN 2/C Benjamin
Chief Petty Officer

Auburn Drill Meet 2004

By: MIDN 4/C Flaherty

Returning from Christmas break, the Tulane NROTC drill team members knew they were in for a lot of hard work. This year the Auburn drill meet was only two weeks after midshipmen arrived back from Christmas break. For this reason the drill team had to endure the endless, lengthy practices needed to be competitive for the Auburn Drill Meet, especially for those who were also on the smaller specialty squads. It was not uncommon for a midshipman to practice for up to four hours a day. The drill team got to know the drill card so well that many could do it in their sleep.

The practice all paid off when the Tulane drill team took home more first place trophies from the 2004 Auburn drill meet than any other team in Tulane NROTC history. These first place trophies included:

- Platoon Basic commanded by MIDN 3/C Dye
- Platoon Exhibition commanded by MIDN 3/C Greene
- Inspection commanded by MIDN 3/C Dye
- Squad Exhibition commanded by MIDN 3/C Lundahl
- Individual Exhibition by MIDN 4/C Walker
- Overall team commanded by MIDN 3/C Dye



GYSGT Hurdle, MIDN Dye, MIDN Ladd, MIDN Greene, and MIDN Lundahl display trophies from the Auburn meet

Mardi Gras Drill Meet 2004

By: MIDN 4/C Flaherty

Endless hours of practice continued for the Tulane NROTC drill team following the Auburn victory. This was in preparation for the highly anticipated Mardi Gras drill meet on February 20th. Sixty-four schools from across the country competed in the annual drill competition.

The big winner of the competition was Texas A&M, returning home with numerous awards including first place overall. The Tulane Midshipmen shined in one event showing impeccable military bearing to place second in Inspection. A lack of trophies did not hurt the drill team spirit however as they knew they did their best when faced with such a variety of talented competition. It was now time for a well deserved break for drill team members who had faced a year of hard work culminating with almost two months of intense practice.

It is important to note that the drill team CO is usually a junior but this year the unit entrusted this position to Midshipman 3/C Dye. The drill team's performance this year is a testament to his leadership abilities and to the dedication and motivation of every member of the team.



The drill team prepares for competition in the Mardi Gras Drill Meet

Tulane Band Marches in 3 Mardi Gras Parades

By MIDN 4/C Tice

Mardi Gras is the time for the Tulane NROTC band to shine. Under the leadership of MIDN 2/C Kevin Stack, the band had practiced hard all year. As the Mardi Gras parades grew near, everything came together.

This year the Tulane NROTC Band participated in three Mardi Gras parades. On 15 February the band mustered in the morning to prepare for the Carrolton afternoon parade. On this day, new band members experienced for the first time what it feels like to march three hours through the streets of New Orleans wearing service dress blues and playing instruments. During the march, old members of the percussion section reminded everyone of the dedication needed to carry these heavy instruments. During the Carrolton parade the band perfected its version of "The Hey Song" and the ever famous "Butt Dance."

The band participated in their second parade, Saturn, on 18 February. During the down time before the start of the parade, the band had an opportunity to see the floats as well as gather and pass around beads. In this parade, larger crowds and a more celebratory nighttime atmosphere helped make the march more enjoyable for all band members old and new.

On Friday February 20, after working all day at the annual drill meet, band members mustered one last time for the d'Etat parade. With the experience of two completed parades, the band played this parade with more confidence than ever. This was quite a feat after an intense week of practice combined with a long workday at the Mardi Gras drill meet.

The band has worked hard this year in order to raise funds for the unit. At the same time they have improved dramatically in their playing and have enjoyed themselves immensely.



MIDN 1/C Allison poses during the Saturn Parade

A Personal Account of the Raiders Field Exercise

By MIDN 4/C Oliver

The Tulane NROTC Raiders held their spring 2004 Field Exercise at Camp Villeri. From the outset it became obvious that the exercise was designed to get all of the training objectives completed in as short a time as possible. First on the agenda was a 8-10 mile "admin move," better known as a hump. The hump was completed as a night evolution. When the platoon finally stopped, we set up the bivouac complete with tents (What a luxury!). After rushing through that, First Squad and Second Squad were divided up. Then ammunition (blanks of course) was issued out, and orders were given to conduct the night patrol/ambush. I was with First Squad. After successfully taking a wrong turn we finally made contact with Second Squad. To make a long story short, First Squad was annihilated. The platoon marched back to the bivouac for much needed chow and not more than 2 hours of sleep!

Reville sounded early, and the platoon jogged to the Confidence course, a mile away. This course was one of my favorite parts of the field exercise, second only to the chance to shoot blanks. After dropping everything out of the 782-gear we didn't want to get lost, the platoon lined up and

successfully navigated all of the obstacles. Some of the obstacles included a Quigley, an infamous pit filled with muddy water, a Rope Swing, and other standard obstacles such as tires, hurdles, and a rope bridge.

The rest of the day was spent in day land navigation on the Leadership Reaction Course. In an unexpected interruption, Captain Morrow, the Professor of Naval Science, presented Midshipman Walker with a well-deserved NROTC scholarship. After a quick rest, it was back into the field for the final instructional evolution, night land navigation. This evolution completed our field exercise, and we departed home.



MIDN Recore Crosses the Confidence Course

Crawfish Boil 2004

By MIDN 4/C Chung

The annual Crawfish Boil was held on 17 April 2004 at Coconut Beach a volleyball bar next to Lake Pontchartrain. On this man-made beach filled with volleyball courts, Midshipmen and Tulane NROTC Alumni gathered for an afternoon of sports, crawfish, and camaraderie. For those unfamiliar with a crawfish boil, it was an interesting experience eating 900 lbs of the shelled creature. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves while cracking the mudbugs open, eating the meat, and sucking the juice out of the head.

While everyone was finishing off the crawfish, potatoes, corn, mushrooms and sausage

prepared by Midn 2/C Cazes, MIDN 2/C Olivier, and their relatives, Captain Morrow gave a motivating speech about safety. He concluded with the word for the day "Wear sunscreen," which was followed by Gunnery Sergeant Hurdle yelling, "Kill bodies." Not many in attendance expected the following announcement pertaining to the unit's executive officer. Commander Flores had decided to leave for duty in the Middle East within the near future. It was expected that he would not return for at least the next six months.

As the day progressed and got hotter, the volleyball tournament began, with certain teams showing obvious dominance on the court. The array of prizes was enough motivation to win, and some teams took the game seriously while others fooled around. It was obvious that everyone was having a good time. The winners of the advanced tournament were the dominating team of LT Brandhuber, MIDN 3/C Balsamo, MIDN 3/C Dye, MIDN 3/C Albayrak, and MIDN 3/C Thrasher. At the end of the day, everyone went home well fed and exhausted.

Farewell 2004

By MIDN 3/C Balsamo

The end of the year brings two things to look forward to for Tulane University Midshipmen. Aside from the freedom and relaxation promised by summer vacation, spring also brings the Tulane NROTC Farewell Ball. As the name suggests, this occasion is held to say goodbye to the Midshipmen and Officers who will be leaving the unit. This year's ball was especially significant, for in addition to the departing seniors, the Unit bid farewell to LT McCall and Major Thomasson.

The event was held at the Downtown New Orleans Sheraton Hotel overlooking Canal Street and the Mississippi River. The ceremony began at 2000 with the presentation of the seniors through a sword arch. Each senior was announced along with their first active assignment, and it was interesting to hear the variety of places that they were being sent to.

After a grilled chicken dinner, Captain Morrow spoke briefly, congratulating the battalion

on a successful year. He also wished Commander Flores good luck on his tour of duty in Baghdad that he has been assigned to for six months. This was followed by a speech by MIDN Hagen, the outgoing battalion CO, thanking everyone for a good semester. The floor was then given to the incoming CO, MIDN Garrow. He bade farewell to the seniors, and expressed his enthusiasm for the fall semester. MIDN Garrow also presented LT McCall and MAJ Thomasson with farewell gifts signed by the battalion. After this presentation, LT McCall made a farewell speech, thanking the midshipmen for the opportunity to work with them. Next to speak was Major Thomasson. In a speech that stirred a mix of emotions, he recalled memorable moments from his 5 year tenure at the unit. These memories ranged from funny memories of Halloween PT to the confusion and fear of the September 11th attacks. Appreciation for the Major and all of his work in the unit was shown by a standing ovation at the end of his speech.

After the speeches, it was time for the dancing. A variety of songs were played, but the highlight of the night was when Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' was played, and the entire battalion 'got served' by Midshipmen Blanchet and Dye. Everyone had a good time, and the night ended too soon at 2300. All in all, the Farewell Ball was a fine way to mark the end of the year departure for all the Midshipmen.



MIDN 2/C Allison and Graves
bid farewell to MIDN 1/C Seher

Class of 2004 Commissioned 22 May 2004

The commissioning ceremony for the Tulane NROTC class of 2004 was one to remember. Following humor filled opening remarks by Captain J. J. Morrow, guest speaker Dr. John M. Poindexter, VADM USN (Ret) went on to give an inspiring speech to the eleven graduates. The event ended with a picture slide show, highlighting many of the good times the class had as Midshipmen at Tulane.

The Class of 2004:

Ensign Alexander C. Adam
Student Naval Aviator
Pensacola, FL

2nd Lieutenant Michael W. Clark
The Basic School
Quantico, VA

Ensign Katie S. Hagen
USS Donald Cook
Norfolk, VA

Ensign Cory S. Hicks
Student Naval Aviator
Pensacola, FL

Ensign Brian K. Jones
Student Naval Aviator
Pensacola, FL

Ensign Brendon A. Key
USS Shreveport
Norfolk, VA

Ensign Lida B. Pardue
USS Russell
Pearl Harbor, HA

Ensign Brandon A. Rakestraw
USS McCampbell
San Diego, CA

2nd Lieutenant Andrew J. Segal
The Basic School
Quantico, VA

Ensign Morris B. Tichenor
Nuclear Power School
Charleston, SC

(Commissioned at a later date)

USNR

Jeffrey E. Lambeth

Colleen T. Millegan

USMC

David R. Lee

Joshua E. Seher



Retired Vice Admiral Dr. John M. Poindexter gives a speech as the honorary guest speaker at the ceremony.