


2021-2022

A line of sailors in uniform, including black jackets, white trousers, and black hats with white tops and gold accents, standing at attention. The text "THE IRONCLAD" is overlaid in large yellow letters. A blue flag is visible on the left side of the frame.

THE IRONCLAD

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Captain's Corner

CAPT. Nathan S. York - Commanding Officer, NROTC Rochester

First and foremost, I'd like to apologize to our alumni and supporters for not getting the Ironclad published last year. Getting ourselves back to a normal calendar routine has been a bit bear for us, but we are officially "back in battery!"

Another year (and hopefully COVID-19) is behind us, and another Rochester class heads off to the Fleet/Fleet Marine Force. A short biography and picture of NROTCU Rochester's Class of 2022 are contained in the last section of this Ironclad edition. The 14 graduates will represent our Unit well as their maturity, integrity, and commitment to excellence will stand out. Although the most junior of officer rank, they will have immediate responsibilities bestowed upon them, especially those heading directly to ships where bridge watch will demand a heightened sense of vigilance for the safety of hundreds of Sailors.

In this year's edition, we welcome our new staff members and bid farewell to a fellow SWO. Turnover is an integral and necessary part of our naval service as personnel move on, "recharge their batteries", bring vitality to their commands, and tackle new professional challenges.

So, unfortunately, we say farewell to Lieutenant Viet Pham who departed this past spring after serving as the Unit's Surface Warfare Officer Instructor for three years. Besides being an exemplary leader, instructor, and class advisor, Viet served as a great role model with his attainment of his Executive MBA from the Simon Business School. He is off to surface warfare department head school enroute to an LSD as the First Lieutenant. Bravo Zulu, Viet and good luck!

I'd also like to introduce Captain John Boehles, Lieutenant Alex Dudek and Staff Sergeant Kevin Jimenez to the staff. They all arrived last summer and have done an outstanding job in their first year of instruction getting our young men and women trained and ready to enter the fleet.

Additionally, we had an opportunity to head west and compete in the Ohio State Drill Competition instead of going to Villanova this year. It was great opportunity to meet and compete with a new group of Midshipmen.

I am exceptionally proud of our Midshipmen. They are a resilient group of young men and women who are looking to improve not only themselves but their shipmates and battle buddies. They truly embrace Meliora – "Ever better." As we embark on a new academic year with the Class of 2023 taking the helm of leadership, we look forward to embracing a year full of challenges and getting back to normal. Our incoming freshman class is looking very promising with some outstanding candidates.

I can't wait to see what next year brings. As we go forward, we are excited to continue our relationship with the University of Rochester and the three cross-town universities: SUNY Brockport, St. John Fisher College, and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

BNCO Bulletin

ENS Sage - BNCO S2022



This semester, NROTCU Rochester made a few important changes to adapt to a smaller Battalion, and we were able to conduct many Battalion events that we've missed out on since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The biggest change that we made was condensing the Battalion down to three companies, and removing a few midshipman billets. This was an important decision because it allowed us to reduce the amount of unnecessary stress in the Battalion overall because we gave more midshipmen more time to focus on their classes.

For the first time in three years, we were able to hold Navy Ball and properly celebrate and send off our commissioning 1/C. We also took part in a drill competition at Ohio State University, which allowed us to make personal and professional connections with a new circle of midshipmen. Another new addition to the lab schedule this semester was an impromptu trip to an Amerks game for some Battalion bonding. Additionally, we held our annual awards ceremony outdoors and in formation for the first time in four years, which was an excellent display of our Battalion's military bearing and excellence. As Battalion Commander, it was truly incredible to form up and direct the Battalion during the awards ceremony in a drill-oriented fashion, especially because I've always had a passion for drill and ceremony. I was also very excited to introduce the Battalion to some engaging cybersecurity awareness by having Mr. Jayson E. Street give an exciting and intense discussion with the Battalion over Zoom. As a computing security major, it was very important to me that the Battalion begin to understand this genre of threat that exists for us as future officers. Lastly, our most important event that we were able to conduct in person this semester was the commissioning ceremony. This was a beautiful and emotional moment for our 1/C as we begin the next chapter of our Naval careers.

I would like to thank RDML Williams, RDML Fuller, and Mr. Jayson E. Street for taking time out of their busy schedules to impart their knowledge on the Battalion. I would also like to thank the team at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics for hosting us once again this semester. Lastly, I would like to thank my Battalion Executive Officer, ENS Stefkovich, and my Battalion Operations Officer, 2ndLt Svendsen, for their hard work and diligence this semester in developing our midshipmen into excellent future officers, and making all of our Battalion events run smoothly and on time. It was an honor and a privilege to have such a direct role in shaping the midshipmen in our Battalion in their development as midshipmen into future officers.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Gunnery Sergeant Alex Cole - Detached S2021

Gunnery Sergeant Cole has been the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI) at NROTC Unit Rochester since the 2018 fall semester. During his time here, he has not only been an educator, but he has also been a role model to Navy and Marine options alike. His most obvious contribution to the battalion is his role in readying Marine option midshipmen to succeed at Officer Candidate School. But, he just as importantly influenced the development of Navy options into good officers as well.

Gunnery Sergeant Cole made an impact on the battalion and its midshipmen during drill practices, physical training, and of course, in the unit spaces. During drill, Gunnery Sergeant instilled the values of discipline and intensity in all the participants. For the fourth class, Gunnery Sergeant was an intimidating figure. He was pivotal in turning undisciplined high school graduates into fourth class midshipmen, ready to begin their military career. For upperclassmen, Gunnery Sergeant was a valuable resource for midshipmen to learn how to be instructive, motivating, and firm as a leader.

At PT, Gunnery Sergeant motivated midshipmen and taught the importance of being physically fit as an officer and leading by example. Gunnery Sergeant frequently joined in with different companies during workouts to increase the energy and effort of those midshipmen. Additionally, Gunnery Sergeant Cole would have word to pass to the battalion at the end of PT, either to encourage the battalion to keep up the good work, or to get everyone back on track and get everyone refocused on physical excellence.

Gunnery Sergeant's presence alone has been a reminder for every midshipman to maintain professionalism and high standards whenever we represent the unit. He ensured that the company responsible for field day would not only return the unit to a neat condition, but he also impressed the importance of taking pride in a clean and neat workspace. On days when midshipmen were in uniform, Gunnery Sergeant would be sure to correct anyone that was out of regulation, and simultaneously ensure that that midshipman left the encounter more informed on why the regulations are important, especially as future officers. Through this, Gunnery Sergeant infused values into our unit's midshipmen which will carry with them to the Fleet and beyond.

After Gunnery Sergeant Cole departs from NROTCU Rochester, he will go on to serve in his MOS as an Automotive Maintenance Technician (3521). His time and efforts here at NROTCU Rochester have left a lasting impact on the battalion, and we value the lessons he has imparted on us.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Captain Moriarty -Detached S2021

Since May 2018, Captain Brian Moriarty has served as the Marine Officer Instructor at NROTC Rochester, helping guide future Naval and Marine officers towards commissioning and success in the fleet. As we now come close to the third anniversary of Captain Moriarty's joining of the Rochester NROTC unit, and with his retirement on the horizon, it would be appropriate to take a step back and appreciate his service within the Marine Corps and the Rochester Unit.

Captain Moriarty started his career within the Marine Corps in 2013 after commissioning through the University of Arizona's NROTC program; graduating from the University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a minor in Military Science. After completing The Basic School and subsequently the Basic Communications Officer Course, 1st Lieutenant Moriarty was stationed in Okinawa, Japan as part of Communications Company, Headquarters Regiment, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. Here he served as the Radio Platoon Commander. In 2016, 1st Lieutenant Moriarty deployed aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard, and after following the ship to various sites along the Korean Peninsula he returned to Communications Company to continue serving as the Radio Platoon Commander. In 2017 1st Lieutenant Moriarty participated in two joint military training exercises, Key Resolve and Talisman Saber. He first served as the Officer-in-Charge for the Communications Detachment, Combat Logistics Detachment 372 during Key Resolve, an annual command post exercise held between the Republic of Korea Armed Forces and United States Forces Korea. Then, 1st Lieutenant Moriarty served as the S6A for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during Sabre Talisman, another military exercise conducted between the Australian Defense Force and the United States Military. After returning from the 31st MEU, 1st Lieutenant Moriarty served as the Operations Officer for Communications Company, Headquarters Regiment, 3rd Marine Logistics Group until he was promoted to Captain in April of 2018. After his promotion, Captain Moriarty received orders to serve as the Marine Officer Instructor at NROTC Rochester in May 2018. Captain Moriarty's military decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award.

Captain Moriarty's impact on the Rochester NROTC Unit cannot be overstated. Captain Moriarty has continued Rochester NROTC's tradition of commissioning excellent Naval and Marine Corps Officers through his guidance of Midshipmen and contribution of his own military experience. I have been profoundly impacted by Captain Moriarty's advice, and I can only imagine the type of person I would be had I received a few more years of his guidance. Captain Moriarty, you will be sorely missed, though I wish you all the best in your future endeavors with Amazon and firefighting. Thank you for all you have done for me and all other Midshipmen who have had the fortune of receiving your guidance.

- MIDN 2/C Sweeney

Fair Winds and Following Seas

LT Anh-Viet Pham - Detached S2022

Lieutenant Anh-Viet Pham has been serving at NROTC Rochester as the Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) for over two years, having first arrived here in late July of 2019. Lieutenant Pham earned his commission through the ROTC Program at the University of Rochester and graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics.



After he commissioned, LT Pham reported to the USS James E. Williams (DDG-95) and served as the Repair Officer and First Lieutenant. In 2017 he transferred to the USS George Washington (CVN-73) where he served as the Auxiliaries Division Officer, Refueling Complex Overhaul Manning Coordinator, and Engineering Department Testing Coordinator.

Throughout his career with the NROTC Rochester Unit, Lieutenant Pham has helped instill in me and the rest of the Battalion high standards of excellence, tools needed to reach those heights, as well as the importance of communication and respect between the ranks. He has taught and showed us how to live a balanced and successful life. He was my company officer at NROTC Rochester for two semesters, my first and my last. While he was a company officer, he was also the Officer in Charge of Navy Ball and the Commissioning Ceremony. Additionally, he worked with and commissioned eight SWO's this past Spring 2022 and was able to take care of his two kids at home.

Lieutenant Pham will continue his career in the SWO community, heading to Department Head School this Summer, 2022. He is always glad to see the high motivation of the midshipmen at the unit, believing that the Navy will be in good hands under their leadership in the years to come. Wherever Lieutenant Pham ends up, we know that his leadership and high motivation will carry him to excellence. Fair winds and following seas, Lieutenant Pham.

- ENS Anthony

Welcome Aboard Captain Boehles - F2021

Captain John Boehles hails from Richmond, Virginia and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 2009 as a 0511 MAGTF Planning Specialist before commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in 2013 through the Platoon Leaders Course. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness with a minor in Political Science. After completing The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia and Air Support Control Officers Course at Marine Air Ground Combat Center in Twenty-Nine Palms, California, he served with Marine Air Support Squadron 3 and deployed with 5th Marine Regiment. Once promoted to Captain, he reported to the Fire and Effects Control Center with III Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Courtney in Okinawa, Japan. Here, he coordinated training



among his own forces, the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force, and the Republic of Korea Marine Corps. While in Japan, he earned a Master of Science in Political Relations from Troy University's Pacific Campus at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan.

Captain Boehles is extremely excited for the opportunity to lead, instruct, and mentor the future leaders of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Captain Boehles became interested in joining the Battalion at NROTCU Rochester because of the city's positive environment, rich history, and appreciation for service members past, present, and future. He appreciates the creative freedom he will have here working in a smaller unit in order to provide more individualized training for those under his command. Captain Boehles is looking forward to working with the Midshipmen here at NROTCU Rochester and sees their drive and passion as motivation to bring out the best in himself as well as those around him. Captain Boehles encourages leaders at every level to read and learn from those that came before them, and use stories and experiences from past leaders to bolster their own toolbox of leadership skills. He also encourages people to develop their own self-discipline. He believes that those who ride off of skill alone end up falling behind in the end without developing good working ethics and habits.

Welcome Aboard Captain Boehles - F2021 (cont'd)

Captain Boehles and his wife moved to Rochester, New York to be closer with family here on the East Coast and look forward to spending time here experiencing all that the state has to offer. Outside of the Marine Corps, he grew up as an Eagle Scout and loves a good challenge. For fun, he enjoys hiking, reading, and painting. His advice to young and aspiring leaders is to “remember why you started.” He states, “It can be very easy to get discouraged, especially when you are in the middle of your journey and cannot clearly see the starting or finishing lines.” On behalf of the Midshipmen of NROTCU Rochester, welcome aboard!

- 2ndLt Niezabytowski

Welcome Aboard LT Dudek - S2022

LT Alex Dudek graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in International Relations with a minor in Arabic. He was commissioned as a Student Naval Aviator through NROTC Rochester in 2015. After flight school, LT Dudek reported to HSM-41 “Seahawks” where he learned to fight the MH60R in San Diego, CA in February of 2018. He then reported to his first operational Squadron, HSM-75 “Wolfpack” in January of 2019. LT Dudek was aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt at the start of the COVID pandemic.



LT Dudek enjoys flying helicopters because of how low and slow you can fly. Some of his favorite things to do in the air are autorotations, landing on the back of ships, and flying through the mountains. If he has

extra time, he may even conduct a “surf recce” to see how the waves look at his favorite surf spots. LT Dudek enjoys flying the MH-60R in particular because of how much situational awareness he has in the air due to the powerful RADAR / IFF capabilities and the forward looking infrared (FLIR) camera on the front. These were game changers for his understanding of the battlespace and what other aircraft and ships were operating in his vicinity.

LT Dudek’s goals as our new aviation instructor are to motivate our Midshipmen about how awesome the Aviation Community is, but also to provide practical, efficient, and hands-on training while they are here to not only create solid future Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers, but great Naval Officers as a whole. He advises current midshipmen to use this time in college to figure out who they are and what makes them happy. “Find your leadership style and stick with it. Stay humble, work hard, and look out for each other.” As a midshipman, LT Dudek really enjoyed the people he was surrounded by. Each one of them motivated him to do better either academically or physically and he was just proud to be around such a high performing group of people. As an officer, he really enjoys the people he gets to work with, not only his peers but the sailors as well. He also enjoys the level of responsibility he is given, and more in-depth insight into the “why” of some of the higher-level decision making with our naval operations and strategy.

- ENS Sause

Welcome Aboard SSgt Jimenez - F2021



Staff Sergeant Kevin Jimenez is a native of Trenton, New Jersey where he played shortstop and second base on his high school baseball team. In 2006 he married Mrs. Katherine D. Calderon-Jimenez. After a time working as a police officer in New Jersey he chose to enlist in the Marine Corps and reported to Paris Island on 12 May 2008. Following boot camp he went on to MOS school where he became a motor transport operator and logistic vehicle operator. Staff Sergeant Jimenez would go on to deploy to Afghanistan twice, work as a drill instructor, and deploy to Korea. He has two kids Giovanni and Zoey.

Since arriving at NROTC Rochester, Staff Sergeant Jimenez has become an integral part of the unit staff. Notably he teaches drill leading and the results of his hard work show with a very successful showing at both Cornell and Ohio State. He also has been instrumental in preparing marine options for OCS as well as offering cross service training opportunities to Navy options. His enlisted perspective already had a major impact in the development of leadership across the battalion.

Staff Sergeant Jimenez has had some incredible opportunities as a Marine. One of his favorite experiences was working as the driver for Cpl. Kyle Carpenter. He recounts that he Cpl. Carpenter was very humble and always took the time to look out for those around him. He also had the opportunity to train Mexican Marines as part of a NCIS program. When asked for advice for rising officers he says that it is very important to stay humble. This opens doors to opportunities as it will help JO's learn and make connections.

- ENS Rider

9/11 Cadence Run

Calling cadence is a tradition as old as organized militaries, dating back to the era of Roman legions who called cadence to regulate the speed and uniformity of marching infantry. In the United States Military cadence runs also have a long history, calling cadence has played an integral role in boosting morale and camaraderie throughout the arduous rucks and runs that are a necessity in keeping soldiers fit and prepared in both peace and wartime.

Here at the University of Rochester, the 9/11 Cadence run started much like a normal day of PT. The battalion formed up and conducted a warm-up, then fell into a formation of two side-by-side columns. In the lead were Midshipmen 1/C Svendsen, Collins, and Rider carrying the National Ensign as well as the Navy and Marine Corps flags; they were followed by the battalion, ordered alphabetically by company. Throughout the run, Midshipmen would take turns rotating out of formation to run alongside the columns reciting a cadence from memory or in some instances improvising one on the spot.



Alpha Company was positioned in the front of the formation; as Company Commander I was especially conscious of the energy and creativity of the cadences, but throughout the 3 mile run around campus, both Alpha company and the Battalion as a whole delivered. Surrounded by the booming voices of Alpha Company and the battalion as a whole it was abundantly clear that the weight of what we were remembering was on the minds of all Midshipmen participating in the cadence run. It would have been easy for everyone participating to treat the cadence run as just another PT evolution, however, the way the battalion showed up with energy, excitement, and respect reinforces the tradition of excellence that is present among the Midshipmen and leadership here in the battalion.

- MIDN 2/C Lawson

9/11 Vigil



NROTC Unit Rochester held a vigil on September 8th, 2021, in Eastman Quad in remembrance of September 11th, 2001. During this vigil, midshipmen across the battalion paid tribute to the lives lost that day. Although I, Midshipman fourth class Derby, wasn't born until 2003, I was honored and privileged to take part in such a beautiful memorial. As I held the flag, an immense amount of pride coursed through me as I knew I was standing to remember the brave, honor the fallen, and hope for the future.

The pride I feel for my country is perfectly displayed in the words of President George W. Bush. He says, "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundation of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America." Through NROTC Unit Rochester, I have the privilege of training to serve this great country and to protect the foundation that he proudly spoke of. This is my calling. I want to be a part of the strong foundation of America. I, among other honorable midshipmen, participated in this vigil in commemoration, remembrance, and in love for this incredible nation. We are the next generation ready to "go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world" (President G.W. Bush).

9/11 Vigil (cont'd)

During the Vigil, myself and two other midshipmen marched to the center of the Quad to perform the exchange of the colors. As I received the colors from the midshipmen before me, and stood frozen in silence, I had a lot of time to think. Having not been alive during the 9/11 attacks, the stories I hear and the articles I read are all I have. These stories are graphic, incredibly detailed, and terrifying. My mom tells me that she and my two older sisters were outside playing while my dad was at work at the Syracuse City Police Department when she got the news. She remembers what they were wearing, the moves they made, and the silence in the sky. My family didn't know anyone in the towers or the pentagon, nor the planes, nor did we have anyone close to us that did. My family was upset, and they mourned over all the innocent and heroic lives lost, my dad especially for his first responder and firefighting brothers, but more so they were terrified and began filling with an unrestricted anger. The country was angry. I, not even alive at the time, feel intense resentment. When we speak of this tragedy and massive loss of life, I mourn and I am scared, but I am furious. I held that flag for the 9/11 vigil with pride, ready to go and protect the nation I love and the people in it. No mother should ever fear going to work, no child should ever fear getting on a plane, and no man should ever die at the hands of a terror attack.

When people ask me why I joined the NROTCU Rochester, this is my answer. This is my oath. This is my responsibility. The tragedies of 09/11/2001 will forever be in our hearts, whether we mourn, feel anger, fear, or a combination of the three. We protect the people, we protect the land, and we protect American freedom and prosperity.

- MIDN 4/C Derby

Halloween PT



In the spirit of Halloween, the midshipmen at the University of Rochester's Navy ROTC Unit opted to celebrate the holiday by conducting a Halloween PT session. PT (Physical Training) is a part of everyday life at University of Rochester's NROTC battalion. PT serves to enforce the high physical standards of the Navy and Marine Corps and is conducted two times a week. While PT normally involves rigorous physical activity intended to enhance the performance of midshipmen fitness-wise, the Halloween PT session was one geared towards being competitive, costume-filled, and fun. What better way than with a battalion dodgeball tournament?

On the Thursday before Halloween, midshipmen gathered, sporting their Halloween costumes (some of which included crayons and Disney characters) as opposed to the usually worn PT Uniforms. The tournament was conducted round-robin style while teams were determined by companies. As teams faced off, the competitive spirit of the Navy shone through with playful taunting and lots of theatrics. Companies were encouraged through the cheering of their teammates, as well as the prize at stake—40 honor company points for the first-place winning team, 25 for second place, and 15 for third. In the end, Bravo company prevailed with an unexpected win against Alpha in the finals. After the final determination of the tournament, there was still about 30 minutes left in the allotted PT time. Midshipmen were then pitted against each other based on class to fill the remaining time in several even more competitive few games of dodgeball.

Halloween PT (cont'd)

The PT session was very well enjoyed by midshipmen of all classes and companies. Not only did we enjoy the creativity of wearing costumes and the ability to play dodgeball, but we were able to develop relationships with the other midshipmen in the unit due to the less formal setting of training. Overall, the Halloween PT session was a success in promoting values of the Navy through fitness, comradery, and creativity that those who competed will never forget.

- MIDN 4/C Yorke

Leading and Learning

with Buffalo's JROTC Unit

A pillar of officer development at the University of Rochester NROTC program is consistent exposure to leadership opportunities. This mission was accomplished through a diverse set of experiences and exercises including Leadership Reaction Courses (LRC's) which are conducted during the Battalion's weekly leadership lab. These targeted training sessions are intended to provide younger midshipmen with the opportunity to lead in various situations - challenging them physically and mentally. The LRC's are enhanced by the subtle guidance or direction of more senior midshipmen and the unit staff whose feedback during and after the evolutions provides enormous growth opportunities. Nevertheless, the practice of teaching and coaching is another effective way of developing one's leadership skills. The indoor LRC conducted on 13 October 2021 was an especially important leadership event, combining each of these learning opportunities as the unit was joined by Buffalo's JROTC program.

The LRC began by dividing the Rochester Battalion into companies and the JROTC guests were split between each group. Therefore, there was a unique combination of experienced NROTC seniors and prospective high school students. This diversity prompted an interesting and challenging leadership opportunity for the fourth-class midshipmen who had to lead a group with varying expertise.



The structure of the LRC was four rotating stations. They varied from information-oriented briefs to physically demanding challenges. Throughout, the company had to be engaged and transition swiftly from stations. Leaders were responsible for the accountability of the company and ensuring involvement and participation.

Station one dealt with a moral dilemma in which a student naval aviator was considering omitting a key piece of medical history from his reports to avoid possible rejection from flight school. The station leader proposed thought-provoking questions to help the midshipman navigate the topic. Students were engaged in all facets of the argument from potential personal health risks to ethical safety considerations. Participants from the JROTC level through first-class midshipmen were heard, considered, and compared.

Leading and Learning (cont'd)

with Buffalo's JROTC Unit



The second station was run by LCDR Karaoguz and 2ndLt Gibbs. This was an information-based brief on the proper procedures for communicating with radios as well as tips and considerations for the most effective transmission of messages. The station culminated with students having the opportunity to practice communicating their message correctly and effectively through radio.

Station three challenged all facets of the midshipmen. The entire company was quizzed on general Navy and Marine Corps knowledge. If the question was answered incorrectly, the midshipman would be a casualty and it became the responsibility of the rest of the company to safely maneuver them under an area of low-hanging barbed wire. To make matters worse, the participants were not allowed to use their hands or voices during the entirety of evolution. A fourth-class midshipman took the lead in briefing the mission and directing a very challenging station. The station was an excellent example of the unit's commitment to providing experiences leading in uncomfortable situations.

The final station dealt with plotting coordinates on maps. After a quick tutorial, the company was split up to get hands-on exposure to dealing with map grids and plotting points. The JROTC midshipmen took the opportunity to try this themselves while connecting with current ROTC midshipmen.

In sum, the indoor LRC was yet another example of the diverse opportunities midshipmen have to enhance their military skills while simultaneously practicing and enhancing their leadership capabilities. The guidance of the upperclassmen and unit staff in addition to the inquiries of the JROTC guests was a dynamic that encouraged both development and enthusiasm. Thank you to the Buffalo JROTC program for your involvement!

- MIDN 3/C Shanks

Marine FTX Perspective



On the 18th of March, 2022 the University of Rochester's NROTC unit was given the opportunity to have its Marine Option Midshipmen conduct a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort Drum, New York with the Cadets of Rochester Institute of Technology's Army ROTC unit. The Army's Cadets and the Marine Option Midshipmen conducted a series of training scenarios in the open fields and woods of Fort Drum. While most of the missions were led by upperclassmen Cadets, a few Marine Options were given the opportunity to lead these operations. This was a great learning experience for the Cadets and the Midshipmen because it was a mix of the two military branches allowing both the Cadets and Midshipmen to learn from one another. In addition, the Marine Option Midshipmen conducted their own Land Navigation training on Fort Drum's Land Navigation course. The Midshipmen were given the opportunity to put their skills and knowledge to the test when navigating throughout the woods in Fort Drum in order to locate specific land markers. The Midshipmen were split into fireteams where each fireteam was assigned an upperclassmen to observe and instruct the underclassmen conducting the Land Navigation test. The FTX was extremely beneficial to both ROTC Units in providing training in the field, in preparation for arriving in the fleet upon commissioning.

- MIDN 4/C Niezabytowski

Tactical Decision Games

As future Navy and Marine Corps officers, the ability to make deliberate, intelligent, and timely decisions is integral to operating effectively in the fleet. Whether it be flying in the cockpit, delivering orders on the bridge, or leading Marines in the field, the reality is that junior officers will have to make quick decisions with broad implications. These instances are challenging, stressful, and difficult to simulate in a formative environment.

Nevertheless, pioneered by MIDN 1/C Svendsen, the battalion had the opportunity to enhance their decision making skills through tactical decision games during our weekly lab period. Each session began with a brief detailing the relevant mission, capabilities, and limitations which formed the basis of our decisions. As the situation unfolded, the mediator provided a short period of reflection so that each midshipman could gather their thoughts and prepare to deliver a plan to respond to the scenario. Prompted by senior midshipmen and staff, participants were encouraged to examine each problem from different perspectives, considering complex problems with imperfect solutions.

The tactical decision games addressed a plethora of scenarios relevant to the Marine Corps and Navy. Each evolution concluded with insightful discussion and feedback about the effectiveness of the decisions that were made. Regardless of the success of the plan, the exposure that midshipmen got to the pressure of making tough decisions was invaluable.

- MIDN 3/C Shanks

Ohio State University MEC

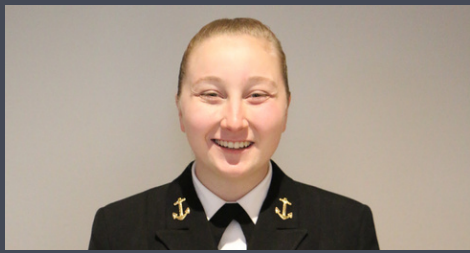


Leadership is not about power, it's about teaching, and more importantly -learning.- I am MIDN 2/C Williamson and I was able to have the absolute pleasure of instructing our platoon drill for the Spring 2022 semester, and leading us in preparation for the Ohio State University Drill Competition. As a unit leader, we are meant to instill confidence in our unit and overtime gain a deeper understanding of the members that make up our drill unit. Through repetitive practice, we become connected in our movements and begin working seamlessly; furthermore, guiding our unit and them teaching me along the way. Early mornings, sweat, blood, NO tears (we don't cry), and the spirit of competition come together to describe the factors of platoon drill this semester. Additionally, drill at NROTC Rochester serves the purpose of military discipline but also unison, and within our unit all classes of Midshipmen participate. This, in turn, creates a family dynamic with years of experience to weave throughout the platoon, producing a more cohesive group overall.

Our semester did not culminate into a win at Ohio State University, but what we took away is reflected in the resilience and perseverance of each member of our drill team. I could not be more proud of the work that was put in and showcased at the competition. Winning often weighs heavily on our minds as an end goal, but for the first time as a leader, I realized that no matter win or lose, the method in which you recover and move forward is the truest testimony to your character. We hold our heads high and will continue to push forward in future semesters, learning from our mistakes, and ready to tackle every obstacle that may come.

- MIDN 2/C Williamson

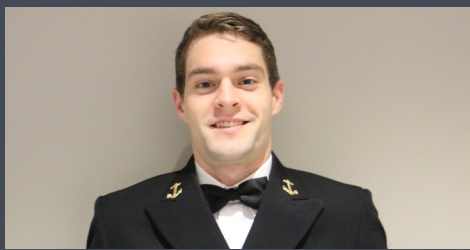
Congratulations Class of 2022!



Claire Aikins | West Long Branch, NJ
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. She will report to the USS Spruance (DDG 111) in San Diego, California, for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Rachel Anthony | Philadelphia, PA
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She will report to the USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119) in Mayport, Florida, for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



John Collins | Port Jefferson, NY
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Statistics and Economics. He will report to the USS Sioux City (LCS 11) in Mayport, Florida for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Nick Donnell | Uncasville, CT
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He will report to Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC as a prospective Submarine Officer.



Anna Downs | Rochester, NY
Graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Industrial Design. She will report to the USS Cole (DDG 67) in Norfolk, VA, for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Andrew Lazarus | Springville, NY
Graduate of the University of Rochester with degrees in Political Science and History. He will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA for duty as a Marine Officer.



Jaewoo Nam | Queens, NY
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Engineering Science. He will report to Naval Air Station Pensacola in Pensacola, FL as a prospective Student Naval Aviator.

Congratulations Class of 2022!



Cal Niezabytowski | Syracuse, NY
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA, for duty as a Marine Officer.



Hugh Rider | Winnetka, IL
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Business and Political Science. He will report to the USS Ramage (DDG 61) in Norfolk, VA for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



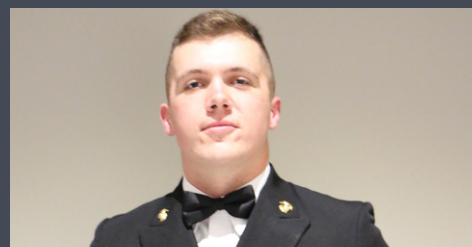
Kira Sage | Rochester, NY
Graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Computing Security. She will report to the USS Wasp (LHD 1) in Norfolk, VA, for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Daniel Sause | Lake George, NY
Graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Computing and Information Technology. He will report to the USS New York (LPD 21) in Norfolk, VA, for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Ryan Stefkovich | Rochester, NY
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Data Science. He will report to Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC as a prospective Submarine Officer.



Jonah Svendsen | Arnold, MD
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in International Relations. He will report to The Basic School in Quantico, VA, for duty as a Marine Officer.



Emlyn Thorogood | Havertown, PA
Graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He will report to the USS Farragut (DDG 99) in Mayport, Florida for duty as a Surface Warfare Officer.

Thank You

It has been a true pleasure putting together this year's Ironclad for you. We would like to extend a special thank you to our families, friends, and alumni for supporting each and every one of us. We could not do any of this without you! To our veterans, thank you for your service.

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