

# REDSTICK REVIEW

SU  
SELU

TENTH EDITION

LSU  
BRCC

## CO's Call

Greetings Alumni and Family,

We must be getting back to normal because it seems like the semester just began and it is already finals week.

As I reviewed this newsletter, I was reminded of a busy semester full of great events led by the Midshipmen of this battalion. The NJROTC Area 8 Super Meet and Battalion Dining-In are just two examples of events led by the Midshipmen that were a lot of fun and enhanced the NROTC experience. I am also excited that we added practical firearms training to lab this year, providing some the first opportunity to shoot and all a head start on future warfighting training.

Next, I would like to congratulate and thank this year's graduating seniors. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation and commissioning. Thank you for supporting the significant changes to the unit operations and our expectation of Midshipmen. You will all go far!

Finally, for our returning Midshipmen and especially those participating in summer training, have a GREAT SUMMER!

Brien W. Dickson  
CAPT USN



## MIDN Staff

**BNCO**  
MIDN 1/C Jacobs

**BNXO**  
MIDN 1/C Zohn

**Sgt Maj**  
Staff Sgt Witowski

**Alpha PLT CO**  
MIDN 1/C  
Unbehagen

**Bravo PLT CO**  
MIDN 1/C Croghan

**Mike PLT CO**  
MIDN 2/C  
Demopoulos

## BNCO's Corner

Greetings,

As the spring semester wraps up, I cannot help but reflect on what we achieved as a Battalion this semester. For example, the midshipmen raised money through LSU baseball, volunteered in the community, and brought back events we have not partaken in since the pre-COVID days. All of this could not have been done without the perseverance and upstanding qualities each individual midshipman took upon themselves to strive for. Our unit grew closer together through these endeavors because of it. I would like to thank my MIDN Staff for their hard work this semester and I am proud to soon be calling myself an alum to this Battalion!

Sincerely,

MIDN 1/C Jacobs

## Esprit de Corps

This semester, SUNROTC participated in various Corps of Cadets events! These events were, the Corps run, President's Day Parade, and Military Ball. The annual President's Day Parade is a fan favorite among the MIDN as they were able to show off the Navy's Summer White Uniform!

This year's parade was more significant than year's past because it marked the opening of LSU's military museum. The museum features LSU's involvement and impact throughout military history and highlighting the, "Long Purple Line". MIDN 1/C Megan Laviolette exclaimed, "since my freshman year, LSU Memorial Bell Tower has been under construction, and it feels like my time here has come full school now that the museum opened in my senior year."

This Military Ball featured guest speaker, Ret. Captain, Ronald Drez, partner in production of Band of Brothers. It has been three years since the MIDN and Cadets were able to engage in the Military Ball.

## Ship Selection

MIDN 1/C Megan Laviolette (left) selected USS Donald Cook (DDG-75) out of Mayport, FL. MIDN 1/C Aimsley Unbehagen (right) selected USS Forest Sherman (DDG-98) out of Norfolk, VA on 24 FEB. Both will begin Basic Division Officer Course (BDOC) in Norfolk, VA this October. The Midshipmen held a livestream for family and friends from all over to watch and celebrate where these two individuals would be taking their talents. Aspiring SWO's were able to witness what is to come in their journey toward commissioning.



## Joint Field Exercise



The Marine Option Midshipmen and a few voluntary Navy Midshipmen spent a weekend in Mississippi at Camp Shelby for the biannual field exercise with Tulane NROTC. Some highlights from the weekend were a 9.3 mile hike with 45 lbs of gear and night time land navigation. The Marine Options gained valuable experience and knowledge as they prepare for Officer Candidate School (OCS) in the summer of their rising 1/C year. We wish MIDN 2/C Demopoulos (pictured) good luck as he heads to OCS this summer!

## To the Grog!

To culminate the year, the midshipmen and unit staff gathered at LSU Faculty Club to socialize and dine together at the Battalion Dining In. This was most of the Midshipmen's first experience with Naval Traditions. Toasts were given, offenses were charged, and the grog bowl was consumed. The third and fourth class also presented their dining in video which poked fun at the officers and upper-class midshipmen. Overall, the entire dinner was morale boosting and helped to strengthen the everlasting bonds between Midshipmen!



## Firing Range

In March, Midshipmen had the opportunity to attend the firing range in Baker, LA. Midshipmen gained hands-on experience in operating a pistol as many members of the Battalion have never had the opportunity to do so before. Confidence building exercises and hands on lab evolutions give the MIDN the opportunity to expand their horizons and maximize their potential as they progress through the program and in their college careers. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the semesters to come!



## Service Before Self



In April, 19 Midshipmen volunteered at the Baton Rouge Food Bank to deliver groceries to senior citizens in the community. An important aspect of officer training is practicing servant leadership. As future officers, the Midshipmen learn the importance of service before self. MIDN 3/C Ava Welsh said, “Community service was something we haven’t really done as a unit and I enjoyed being able to help my community alongside my peers in the battalion.” Redstick Battalion looks forward for more ways they can serve their local Baton Rouge community!

## Area 8 Drill Meet

In March, Southern University NROTC hosted its annual Area 8 Drill Meet for high school NJROTC units in the Southeast region. The Midshipmen arrived early and prepared for the events to begin. Midshipmen supervised academic testing, judged drill and physical fitness events, sold concessions, and more. The event is well worth it for the Midshipmen and the NJROTC Cadets. It is exciting to witness the different drill teams execute routines they have been practicing for months. Congratulations to Pace High School for taking home the gold!

## Congratulations Seniors!

This year, we are pleased to announce there will be four new Ensigns and one new 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant entering the fleet and joining the list of commissioned alumni! These newly commissioned officers will be headed off to different parts of the country whether it be to TBS, BDOC, Flight School, or Power School. On behalf of the unit, we would like to thank the Seniors for all their hard work and positive contributions to Southern University Navy ROTC over the past four years. We look forward to following your accomplishments in the Fleet as you represent the Redstick Battalion well! Fair Winds and Following Seas.

## SUNROTC Store

Do you want to show off your unit pride with us? Look no further! From t-shirts and hats to jackets and tote coolers, we've got it all! We feature some great designs, and 10% of all proceeds go right into the MIDN fund, helping us grow!



@redstickbattalion



Southern University  
NROTC

### MIDN Store Link:

[Teamlocker.squadlocker.com](https://www.teamlocker.com/squadlocker.com)  
Type 'SUNROTC' in "Find Your Store" and we will pop right up!

Follow us on social media, as well!

Thank you so much for your support!