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SELU**REDSTICK REVIEW**LSU
BRCC**THIRD EDITION****CO's Call**

Greetings!

This is shaping up to be a fast paced, event filled semester. It's hard to believe spring break is just around the corner. The Midshipmen have been performing exceptionally well. They are making marked strides in terms of both their physical fitness and academic performance; a true testament to their dedication to the program.

This year our annual NJROTC Area 8 Drill Meet was upgraded to the Area Championship. Thanks to the hard work of our Midshipmen, the event was a complete success and catapulted two of the very best NJROTC programs in the region toward the national championship in April. I think we may have started a new annual tradition when the entire unit, including the staff, headed to JRB New Orleans for a day of paintball and po-boys. It was an excellent way to boost morale and build camaraderie.

With ship selection now complete, our first class Midshipmen certainly have a lot to look forward to as we make preparations for commissioning in May. I sincerely hope you enjoy this issue of our Redstick Review, and thank you for your continued support.

All the best,
CAPT Dean Rawls

**Upcoming Events****April**

05-07 APR
MARINE FEX

09 APR
LAB GUEST SPEAKER
SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

11 APR
PRESIDENT'S DAY
PARADE

23 APR
SWO(N) VISIT

26 APR
DINING IN

May

9 MAY
COMMISSIONING

10 MAY
SU COMMENCEMENT

10-11 MAY
LSU
COMMENCEMENT

BNCO's Corner

Spring semester is in full swing! From competition Fridays to paintball on the weekend, each week brings new and exciting events that keep the Midshipmen on their toes. Every Midshipman in the SUNROTC program is working hard during these events to prepare for their commission!

While it may seem far away, the commissioning of two new Ensigns over the winter break and the seniors' recent ship selection bring a reality to this training program that is inspiring to all. From Norfolk, VA to Pearl Harbor, HI, the first class midshipmen will soon be leading our nation's finest young citizens.

The second class midshipmen are not far behind! They will choose a summer training program that best suits their interests, which may include a month attached to a flight squadron or even a few weeks underway in a submarine! Get excited to see your friends in our program experience the life of a Sailor or Marine this summer!

Until then, SUNROTC will continue to pour into the midshipmen, preparing us through physical fitness, academics, and leadership challenges throughout the spring semester. Take a look at what we've accomplished so far!

MIDN CAPT Renée Hill

Paintball, Po-boys and More!

Sunday, February 10th was a fun and exciting day for all spent bonding over paintball, po-boys, and helicopters. As a way to build comradery and esprit de corps, the entire battalion met at Joint Reserve Base Belle Chasse in New Orleans for a morning of paintball. With the entire paintball area to ourselves, we split into multiple squads and executed several different force on force scenarios, and even had the staff serve as an opposing force defending a fortified compound. Afterward, we were lucky enough to get up close to a pair of MH-53 heavy lift helicopters. The XO, CDR Malokofsky, a 53 pilot himself, arranged for us to receive a brief on the flight line followed by a walkthrough of the aircraft. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the aviation community within the Navy. After a quick pit stop at the Navy Exchange, we headed to Parkway Bakery for their world famous poor boys. All in all, it was a great event may even become a new yearly tradition.



Mardi Gras Celebration

In celebration of Mardi Gras, the battalion participated in the Krewe of Carrollton parade on February 24th. It was another exciting event for the midshipmen as they got to march down the streets of New Orleans to the cheers of the crowd. MIDN 3/C Clements enjoyed the entire experience, but to him, "The best part of it all was watching children's faces light up as we walked by and shook their hands."

Ship Selection



Nationwide, each commissioning class is ranked top to bottom based on statistics such as GPA, physical readiness test scores, and aptitude.

After this process is completed, each MIDN is assigned a day on which they will choose their first ship. With over 250 choices spread across seven locations, it is an exciting, yet intimidating task. One must consider ship type, location, deployment schedule. MIDN 1/C Patrick Cadoret, who chose USS Preble (DDG-88), an Arleigh Burke class

Destroyer

homeported in Pearl Harbor, HI, described his process, saying, "One of the reasons I joined the Navy was



to travel the world. Knowing most ships from Pearl Harbor deploy to the Western Pacific, the choice was easy for me." MIDN 1/C Steven Lewis, the unit Operations Officer, chose USS Hopper (DDG-70), also homeported in Pearl Harbor, while MIDN 1/C Tyler Hernandez chose USS McFaul (DDG-74), homeported in Norfolk, VA. It was certainly a day



the three will remember for their entire careers.

Get in the Water!

On Wednesday, February 20th, the unit participated in swim qualifications. This swim qualification consisted of “abandoning ship,” a 50 meter swim, trouser or blouse inflate, and a five minute float. Each midshipman passed the 3rd class swim qualification, leaving only a few to test for the 2nd class swim qual. MIDN 4/C Unbehagen stopped after receiving her 3rd class qualification, but really enjoyed the experience. As she said, “Even though it was my first time, it was a good experience, and now I know what to expect in future swim quals.”



Win the Day

On Fridays, we compete. A new tradition we have started this spring is Competition Fridays. From Ultimate Frisbee to a game called “Gatorball”, we team up and figure out what it takes to be a champion. Fridays have been an excellent way for us to get our workout in while having fun and bonding as a unit. MIDN 4/C Megan Laviolette's favorite event was log PT, a competition which required teams of midshipmen to carry logs while performing various physical exercises. MIDN 4/C Laviolette said it best, “Without teamwork you fail, and you can’t hide it.” Every team also needs a captain, which gives a new midshipmen leadership experience each week.



Nationals Bound

Every spring, the Southern University NROTC unit hosts the Area 8 Championship competition. A drill competition for high school NJROTC units, Area 8 is a high priority, fast paced, all-hands event for the midshipmen. Planning for this year’s meet began months in advance as the event’s Actions Officer, midshipmen staff, and active duty staff worked closely together to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Other members of the battalion were given duties to complete leading up to the event such as organizing concessions,



preparing scholarship information, and other logistics.

On the morning of the meet, the midshipmen arrived early and prepared for the events to begin. Stretching from 0600 to 1600, each midshipman was assigned several stations to



rotate through. At their stations, midshipmen supervised academic testing, judged drill events, worked on concessions, and more.

Despite all of the time and effort that it takes to host Area 8, the event is well worth it for the midshipmen. It is exciting to witness the different drill teams give their full effort. The cadets’ impressive dedication to their programs is prevalent in their routines. As Midshipman XO Patrick Cadoret described, “It’s a pleasure to put this event on for aspiring leaders because we hope to later see these individuals sitting side by side with us in the fleet, just as accomplished.”