

The Update

March 2006

For Parents and Family of Midshipmen



Former Cole Captain Addresses Battalion

By MIDN 2/C Emily Vaughn

On 17 February, Commander Lippold, former commanding officer of the *USS Cole* (DDG-67) spoke to the battalion. His stirring account described the sobering details of the 12 October 2000 attack on the *Cole*.

On the morning of October 12, the *USS Cole* was docking in Yemen for refueling. After observing the proper mooring and security procedures, CDR Lippold remembers sitting in his cabin when a sudden explosion threw him out of his seat. He recalled he instinctively knew the ship had been attacked. After grabbing his pistol, CDR Lippold ran out to see what had caused the jolt.

Upon finding the blast area, he immediately began conducting the emergency procedures. Despite years of training, nothing could prepare CDR Lippold for such an unprecedented situation. Nonetheless, he knew that the fate of the ship and crew rested on a swift and decisive response. Within an hour, the wounded had been evacuated and the highest levels of the Chain of Command in the government had been contacted and advised of the status of the ship. CDR Lippold remembered his reassuring phone call from President Clinton.

Later, CDR Lippold would learn the terrorist boat, thought to be an authorized garbage barge, had detonated beside the *Cole*. Out of the over 300 person crew, over thirty were wounded and seventeen lives were lost. Lippold especially remembers the professionalism of both officers and enlisted in the face of the chaotic and unexpected attack. Going beyond the call of duty to save the ship and help the wounded, the crew of the *USS Cole* serves as a heroic and admirable example for those who will be entering the United States Naval service. CDR Lippold's account of the *Cole* incident was a vivid and moving narrative of the training and expectations each midshipman will be expected to uphold.



(U.S. MARINE CORPS/AFP)

A Day in the Field

by MIDN 4/C Buck Bobbin



NAVALESE

wardroom: 'wor-"drüm-n. **1.** On a warship, the compartment allotted for the commissioned officers' meeting room and mess. **2.** A term referring to the commissioned officers on a warship as a whole. **3.** At GW: A term assigned to the room at the GWU NROTC Unit in which student or staff events, instruction, and meetings take place.

The Marine Option Midshipmen of The George Washington University NROTC Battalion descended upon Marine Corps Base Quantico for a day of training on Saturday, 25 February. The day began early at 0500 as gear concerns and all the stepping-off problems of a field exercise were addressed outside of the supply building.

After the approximately 8 mile conditioning hike lead by Platoon Commander MIDN 1/C Price and Captain Ward, USMC, the Marine Officer Instructor, the platoon received hands-on training with M-16 assault rifles at the Camp Barrett armory. Hand-to-hand combat training, from the Marine Sergeants accompanying the platoon in the field, land navigation, and Obstacle course instruction were some of the additional training evolutions the Midshipmen went through.

A squad tactics and leadership evolution, instructed by Sergeants and first-class midshipmen who have graduated the Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School, or OCS, was perhaps the most useful training afforded to the midshipmen of the Bravo 3 Platoon. All second-class midshipmen were given the opportunity to lead a squad in a land navigation assault upon an objective, with other third class and fourth class midshipmen acting as fireteam leaders during the assaults.

In substitution of real M-16 rifles, Midshipmen are armed with rubber resin replicas known informally as "rubber duckies". Rifle noises such as "Bang Bang Bang" and "Kapp Kapp Kapp" were used to better simulate a real training environment during the squad assaults.

Captain Ward remarked to Platoon Sergeant MIDN second class Kennedy, "Good training. We made money today out in the field."

The 25FEB field exercise was the first of two that will be executed during the Spring 06 Semester at GWU NROTC. The second is tentatively scheduled for the third weekend in April, and promises to be longer and more challenging.

Captain Peter J. Healey: Farewell Tour

By MIDN 3/C John Urban



A long career in any field will have its share of ups and downs, achievements and disappointments. After nearly 28 years of service in the Navy, Captain Peter J. Healey reflects: "I don't have any regrets." People who can make such a statement are hard to come by. But after serving on five different classes of warships on both coasts, Captain Healey has been able to see nearly every aspect of the surface navy, and has found value in every tour of duty. Captain Healey takes pride in the fact that never in his career did he need to "cash in chips" or lobby for any of his positions except for his current position as the commanding officer of the George Washington University NROTC Unit, an extremely sought after command, especially amongst senior officers in the Washington DC area.

As his tenure as commanding officer here at GW comes to a close, Captain Healey can look back on a successful three-year tour. When asked what the most rewarding part of being the commanding officer of the NROTC unit is, the Captain's first response was that he has the privilege of watching two groups of students be commissioned each year. In addition, Captain Healey is happy to note that the number of enlisted Sailors and Marines enrolled in the Seaman to Admiral program and the Marine Enlisted Commission Education Program (MECEP) has expanded since his tour as CO began. The Captain expressed the importance of having enlisted members from the fleet side-by-side with midshipmen; the Officer Candidates and Marines help provide midshipmen with an enlisted perspective as well as valuable experience. Captain Healey can be confident in the effectiveness of the GW NROTC program, as he receives regular visits from graduates from all service selections who return and convey that they had been well-prepared by their NROTC experience.

While Captain Healey's career as a Naval officer comes to an end, the students in the GW NROTC unit are on the verge of beginning theirs. When asked what graduating students should keep in mind, the Captain responded that many new ensigns and 2nd lieutenants wonder the same thing: "Am I up to the task? Do I have what it takes?" Captain Healey asserted: "We know for a fact that our graduates do well wherever they go. After a time you will say 'I not only can do this job, but I can do it well' and you will love the job."

MIDN of the Month February

The Midshipmen of the month as selected by the Battalion Chain of Command:

MIDN 3/C Gould received junior MIDN of the month for her exceptional performance as the battalion Administrative Assistant. Gould was recognized for her dedication and proactive attitude, which she demonstrated by improving the clarity of the MIDN regulations and fitness report guide. She was nominated by MIDN 1/C Cheny-Peters.

MIDN 2/C Kennedy received senior MIDN of the month for his dedicated service as Bravo 3 platoon sergeant. He not only organized gear for Semper Fi, but also showed exceptional leadership by leading physical training when MIDN 1/C Price, Bravo 3 platoon commander, was unable to attend. MIDN Kennedy was nominated by MIDN Price.

Each award recipient receives a letter of commendation and a military or leadership themed book.

What's the deal with...?

The NROTC Battalion Structure

by MIDN 1/C Chris Peters

Don't forget to visit the GWU NROTC Ship's Store ONLINE!

Merchandise includes:

- PT gear
- polo shirts
- coffee mugs
- pen
- unit challenge coin

[www.gwu.edu/
~navyrotc/
shipstore.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~navyrotc/shipstore.html)

All proceeds benefit the
Battalion Activity Fund

Our battalion is organized to parallel a Navy ship or Marine Corps unit. A first-class (senior) midshipman serves as the Battalion Commanding Officer (BCO), and is responsible for the performance and conduct of the 170 members of the battalion. Assisting him is the Battalion Executive Officer (BXO), who manages the department heads and ensures tasks are accomplished and discipline is maintained. Our current BCO is MIDN 1/C Joshua Lawson, and our BXO is MIDN 1/C J.P. O'Donoghue.

The BCO and BXO have a cadre of department heads who perform the day-to-day business of the battalion. These are all first-class midshipmen who fill the billets of Operations Officer, Administrative Officer, Supply Officer, Information Technology Officer, and Sailing Officer. Each department is divided into divisions and staffed by assistants. Each division is led by a division officer, who is either a first-class or second-class. The operations department, for example, has two assistants (one second-class and one third-class midshipman) and six divisions (Athletics, Drill, Master-at-Arms, Safety, Transportation, and Clubs).

The rest of the battalion is divided into two companies, Alpha and Bravo, each led by a first-class midshipman. All George Washington midshipmen form the three platoons of Alpha Company. Bravo Company contains the Georgetown midshipmen, who have a platoon of their own, the Maryland, Catholic, and Howard midshipmen, who share one platoon, and all Marine Option midshipmen, who form the third Bravo platoon. Platoons have between 15 and 30 members, and are commanded by a first-class midshipman. A platoon sergeant, who is a second-class midshipman, assists the platoon commander by carrying out administrative and disciplinary tasks. Additionally, each of the three squads that the platoon is divided into are led by a third-class or second-class squad leader.

In general, then, first-class midshipmen are the officers of the battalion. They hold all senior positions leading departments, companies, and platoons. Second-class midshipmen generally serve as assistants to first-class midshipmen, and are the "enforcers" of policy and standards. Third-class midshipmen hold positions as small group (squad and fireteam) leaders or as junior assistants to departments or divisions. Additionally, third-class midshipmen, who have recent memories of what it is like to be new in NROTC, are important mentors to the fourth-class midshipmen. Finally, fourth-class midshipmen learn the basics: proper wear of the uniform, timeliness, and other elements of military culture. With this foundation, they are empowered to take on increasing levels of responsibility as they progress through the NROTC program.

The GWU NROTC Parents and Family Association

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