

The Alumni Anchor

Academic Year 2009-10

Spring 2010



NROTC UNIT

- CAPT Edward J. Campbell
- CDR Mark F. Volpe
- Capt Nathaniel Doherty
- LT Adam Christensen
- LT Jay Killen
- LT T.C. Bowers
- GySgt Javier Lozano
- HR Tech Tim Hagey
- Supply Officer Dorothy Engle
- State Sec Cass Williams



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News from Captain Edward Campbell

Greetings from the great Pacific Northwest. By way of introduction, I am CAPT Ed Campbell and I have the great honor and privilege of assuming the reins of the Beaver Battalion here at Oregon State from CAPT Jimmer Sullivan who departed this past July for Stuttgart, Germany and a position on the EUCOM and AFRICOM staffs. I am a P-3 aviator by trade and was not a product of the ROTC program (Aviation Officer Candidate School) so the atmosphere, process, and structure of the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) machine are all new to me. I hail from Long Island New York and graduated from SUNY Stony Brook more than a "few" years ago with a BA in History. I followed that with an MA degree in Education from San Jose State University and then a MS in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University in Washington, DC.

I really had no idea of what to expect in this job, but what I was most unprepared for was how busy it can be, but it is a good busy. I am also struck by how tremendous these students are. Trust me, these fine future officers that I have encountered in my short time here will make you proud

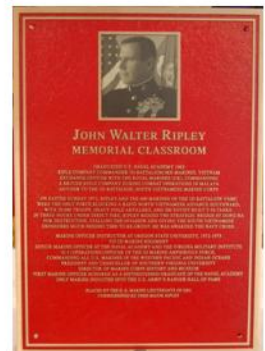
to be an alumnus from this program and they will serve our Navy and Marine Corps extremely well. Just prior to the Christmas break we commissioned three new Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants and we're expecting to commission another 24 fine young officers after the upcoming winter and spring terms.

This fall term seems to have absolutely screamed by and no sooner did we begin NSO, it was time for the Fall Ball. This was the 1st NSO for me and the XO, CDR Volpe, and we were both tremendously impressed with the way the student leadership in the battalion ran this program. Admittedly I was a little concerned with how this was all going to work but it was a well choreographed production and all the XO and I had to do was sit back and applaud. This was also one of the largest freshman classes we've seen here in a long time (53) but that didn't interfere with the fluidity of this operation – they still moved and acted as one.

As I'm sure you're aware, the football team made a real run at it this year and we hosted several tailgaters at the funny white building that were well attended. A lot of the more junior students worked the football



games as fund raising activities and pulled in some much needed cash. A lot of that cash went toward putting the Fall Ball together which was pre-briefed to me as a historically "stuffy" affair. The XO and I made it a point to loosen this event up and as it turns out, we had a blast!



Many of you may remember COL John Ripley from his time as the MOI here at OSU. Some of his former students who referred to him simply as "The Major", banded together and had a magnificent plaque crafted honoring COL Ripley and we conducted a short but moving ceremony here and unveiled the plaque that serves to dedicate the Marine Corps

classroom in his honor. This was a great event that I was very honored to be a part of (Notably, all summer long our recently commissioned USMC 2ndLt's, Dickman and Mulkey, spent untold hours readying the classroom for this dedication. They painted the room to reflect the Marine Corps Digital uniform pattern and made numerous other improvements). Afterward we had a big barbeque and most of the attendees headed over to the stadium for the final home game of the season in which the Beavers trounced the Huskies.

Both the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday celebrations were well attended this year and once again, the battalion did a very impressive job putting this together. Equally impressive was the Battalion's performance in the annual Veteran's Day parade at which they received the trophy for the most outstanding marching unit. On the heels of these events, we had an unprecedented number of students (60+) sign up and run the Benton County Foundation Scholarship run which supports numerous scholarships to all 3 ROTC units here at the University.



Probably the most pleasant surprise I've encountered here so far has been the tremendous support from our fleet sponsors. RDMLs Dixon Smith and Scott Hebner have kept in constant contact with us and have spoken individually with a lot of our students contemplating ship selections. Additionally, The USS Preble answered our call for assistance by sending not only a JO up to visit us, but rather they sent 2 JOs (one was a female), the CMC and the XO! These great Americans conducted briefs and small group discussions that had immeasurable impact on career planning for our students. Afterward, they remained in town as our guests for the Fall Ball and as stated earlier, we had a blast! Most recently our aviation sponsors from VAW 112 paid us a visit from PT. Mugu and provided a great overview of life in an aviation squadron and had two of their E-2s open for static display. Numerous participants from the Aviation Club toured the aircraft

As tremendous as this program here at OSU is, I want to try and continue to build upon CAPT Sullivan's success and keep climbing the ladder and moving this program forward. My vision statement for the battalion is:

To establish the Naval ROTC unit as a BEACON on this university campus where the strength of commitment shared by all Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and Marines will foster an environment of mutual support and dedication that will rival the strongest fraternal organizations on this campus and provide the finest junior officers to the fleet.

I think we can get better at supporting each other across the class and company lines and make EVERY Officer Candidate, MECEP, and Midshipman's success the WHOLE battalion's business. To that end we are in the process of modifying our web site that will feature pseudo chat rooms focused on the different academic disciplines of the students where they can reach out for help in subjects other than just Calculus and Physics. Additionally we are developing a new mentor program and breathing new life into some of the clubs that have been only limping along as of late. Lots to do but there is a lot of enthusiasm behind the projects in work.

The process for service selection has recently changed and this is now a once a year process. Pretty stressful for some who are awaiting the word to come down from the mother ship in Pensacola but the numbers across NSTC are still very positive – 78% of all ROTC graduates got their 1st choice. Our numbers here at OSU were slightly better with 88% of our FY-10 graduates selected for their 1st choice of service assignment. This is the good news. The bad news is that scholarship funding from NSTC (sideload scholarships) have all but dried up. This year we didn't have anyone from the Navy side receive a scholarship but did have 1 Marine option get good news in this arena. We haven't received word on the forecast for future funding, but indications are that the fiscal landscape will remain bleak. This is tough since we have some great, hard charging college programmers that were REALLY counting on getting some financial assistance. We will do what we can to try and spread the Provost Scholarship fund to some of the most needy but deserving candidates.

Another new project in work here is graduation gifts for our new commissionees. I think it is a worthwhile gesture to present our graduates with a classy memento from their Beaver Battalion brethren. We have decided on a custom made, artistically crafted jewelry box suitable for holding rank insignia, coins, etc. These are beautiful pieces and will cost us about \$100 per box. The intent is to cost share with the students so they put in approximately \$50 and we do the same. When I say "We" I must admit I really mean "You". I am counting on the alumni to help us with the cost of these boxes as this spring alone will require \$2400 worth of jewelry boxes. With the battalion numbers currently up to 151 students, you can see where this will require some steady and predictable support. I'd be VERY interested in your thoughts about this project. I like the idea but frankly, without your support, we cannot sustain it. Instructions for contributing to the NROTC Taffrail fund are detailed later in this letter.



Meanwhile, we are preparing for Northwest Navy which will be held at Idaho this year and before you know it we'll be looking at Spring Ball and graduation. One of the biggest challenges for me is finding guest speakers for all these events. If you're interested, we'd be only too glad to have you come back and join us. I hope I have an opportunity to meet some of you during my tenure here so please, if you're in the area drop by and say hello.

Lastly I would like to introduce our two newest staff members: LT "Jay" Kilan recently reported aboard from VP-5 in Jacksonville as our new Aviation Officer, and LT T.C. Bowers is in the turnover process with LT Jake Jones as the new Sub Officer. Other good news from the staff is that our MOI, Capt Nate Doherty was selected for Major and our AMOI, Gunny Lozano, was selected for First Sergeant.

That's all from my seat. Thank you for ALL your continued support and I'll update this newsletter again in the spring! Again, if you happen to be in town during one of our upcoming events, please drop us a line so we can make plans to have you join us.
~ CAPT E.J. Campbell



WELCOME NEW XO~

I am CDR Mark Volpe and like the Captain, I am new to the unit since the last newsletter. I have been a Sailor all of my adult life, having enlisted in the Navy immediately upon completion of high school, progressing through the enlisted ranks, gaining my commission through Officer Candidate School after completing 12 years enlisted service. A Surface Warfare Officer by trade, with more than 24 years of experience in the area of Amphibious Warfare, I consider it an honor and privilege to be here at OSU, involved in the training and development of the future leadership of both sides of the Blue-Green Team.

I arrived here in the spring of 2009 and was immediately impressed by the caliber of the students and staff. Their enthusiasm, professionalism and camaraderie make it clear why the battalion of Midshipmen at Oregon State is "The Best in The West".

This fall saw the arrival of the largest freshman class of Midshipmen we have seen in recent memory. New Student Orientation gave me my first opportunity to watch, from beginning to end, a major event fully planned, coordinated and executed by our own Battalion of Midshipmen. To say that I was impressed with the level of professionalism exhibited in every step of the planning and execution would be a gross understatement.

At the commencement of the New Student Orientation, the Unit Commanding Officer challenged the incoming freshman class to agree upon and adopt a class motto. This motto would be the class' theme. They did not disappoint. With the belief that learning, growth and maturity come from trying new things and tackling new challenges and that staying in your own "comfort zone" leads to stagnation, they

adopted as their own motto...

*"If you always do what
you've always done, you'll
always be what you've
always been."*

Well done to the class of 2013, may you always live up to your motto. We all look forward to future years, as each incoming class adopts their own motto.

It is difficult to believe that the first quarter of this academic year is already over, and we are all looking forward to a busy rest of the year. The Fall 2009 quarter ended with more than one-third of the battalion achieving "Honor Roll" status with GPA of 3.5 or better. Congratulations to them all for their academic success. The early spring will see the Beaver Battalion travelling to the University of Idaho for this year's Northwest Navy competition. We will be sure to keep the web page current with the results of the competition, so you can see how your Beavers have done. Shortly after Northwest Navy, we will be hosting the OSU Joint Service Review, then only a few weeks after that we will have or Spring 2010 Commissioning Ceremony

My first year here at OSU has taught me a lot. Of all I have learned here, I think the most important thing is that with the caliber, integrity and character of the Midshipmen and enlisted personnel working for their commissions, the future of our service is in good hands.

~ CDR M.F. Volpe

THE MARINE OFFICER INSTRUCTOR AND BATTALION ADVISOR

Time flies when you are having fun! The writing of this letter marks the halfway point of my tour as the Marine Officer Instructor. Over the last eighteen months, I have had the privilege of sharing in a variety of experiences that truly highlight what it is to be the Marine Officer Instructor.

One experience is in seeing the generosity of our alums in the form of scholarships for our students. Even during the last 24 months of tough economic times, our local Marine community has continued to support our students by lightening the load on the young men's and women's pocket books or through gifts of swords, watches, and other items. It is your loyalty to the next generation of Marines that makes the motto "Once a Marine always a Marine" ring so true. You continue to set the example now, just as you did when you were still wearing the uniform. Our students (and the local beer establishments) thank you.



Another experience was in sharing the dedication of the obstacle course or "Olf Course" with friends and family of the NROTC during last spring's awards presentation. What started out as a "hey Marines we should barbecue after the dedication" turned into a

wonderful gut stuffing grip and grin for around 150 parents, students, and alumni. Thanks to all who participated. For those that could not make it out we plan to do it again this spring so we hope to see you there.

I was able to experience Officer Candidate School, again, during the summer of 2009. Sadly I must admit that it was much tougher when I went through! This likely



had something to do with the fact that I was serving as a Platoon Commander instead of as a "candidate." For six weeks, I had the opportunity to train, screen and evaluate the future officer leadership of the Corps. For those of you that left Brown's Field a "few" years back, I can assure you that OCS is still great and getting even better. The program continues to evaluate young men and women in all areas of officer development. Some of my candidates made it through, and some did not. Within our own ranks, nine of our junior midshipman and MECEPs returned to OSU a few pounds lighter and standing a whole lot taller. As with previous OCS graduates, these future officers will carry with them not only a well deserved sense of accomplishment, but a life-long loathing of the bacteria laden ditch that is the "Quigley".

One of the more somber experiences over the past year was when

the unit held a ceremony to honor the life of Colonel John W. Ripley (Ret.) during which we dedicated the newly renovated Marine Classroom as the "Ripley Classroom." Col Ripley served as the MOI at Oregon State upon his return from Vietnam (72-76). While in country, Col Ripley destroyed the bridge at Dong Ha. Later, it would be determined that his actions delayed the fall of South Vietnam by three years. In hearing the stories told by his former students or "candidates" as he called them, it became rather obvious that Col Ripley was more than a brave warrior. He was a selfless leader in combat and peace time who truly touched those blessed enough to serve with him.

Equal to all other experiences of the past year is seeing the growth of our students. At the bottom of the pyramid we have this year's freshman class which included fifteen Marine option midshipman and four MECEPs.



At the top of the pyramid we have two students commissioning in December and eight in June. The numbers speak for themselves and to the reality of trying to become a Marine: Not everyone is going to make it. Not everyone should make it. We will do our very best to challenge our midshipman. We only ask that they do their very best in trying to make it. Together we will ensure the continued success of the United States Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis,
Captain Nathaniel Doherty



From the Surface side...

Well its that time of the term again, things are winding down, but its been an incredibly busy and yet beneficial term for everyone. The students as always have been very active around the campus and community doing just about anything you can think of.

We had another wildly successful season of Summer Cruises this summer, sending students all over the world, gaining experience, learning as much as possible and having a great time while doing it. We had students going everywhere from Japan, Australia, Singapore and even an exchange cruise with the French Navy. The overall response was terrific and the students are already raring to go for another summer. Just prior to the summer cruise starting we also had the opportunity to take a group of students onboard the USS Shoup (DDG 86) that was in Portland for the Portland Rose Festival, providing another great learning opportunity that was highly received by the battalion.

In other news here at the Beaver Battalion we have developed a new mentorship program. Teaming jun-

ior Midshipmen with more senior, experienced Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and Marines provides the opportunity for the junior folks to learn from their upperclassmen and provides the upperclassmen with training and leadership opportunities, enhancing their skills for use when they reach the fleet. To further enhance this developing camaraderie we continue to rely on our clubs. "Mare-Nostrum", "Sub-Club" and "Semper-Fi" continue to thrive and we have added the "Aviation Club" for our Midshipmen and Candidates interested in the field of aviation. These clubs go a long way in the professional and personal development of the Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and Marines in the battalion. They'll be active in doing everything from visiting fleet units, to professional development training and just coming together as a group. All in all it's a great time to be a member of the Beaver Battalion.

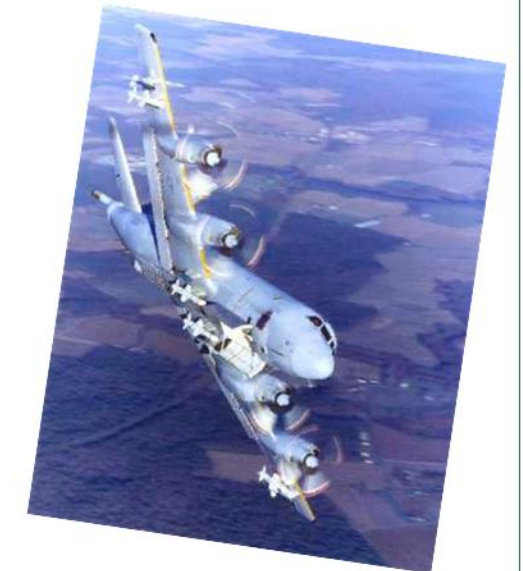
~LT Adam Christensen



Killer on the loose...



As the new Aviation advisor at Oregon State NROTC, I would like to introduce myself. My name is LT James "Killer" Killen. I grew up in Savannah, GA where I attended H. V. Jenkins High School. Following graduation I enlisted in the Navy, completed Boot Camp in Orlando, FL and subsequently Yeoman "A" School in Meridian, MS. My enlisted tours included CINCLANTFLT, USS ALBANY (SSN 753) and USS MAINE (SSBN 741)(GOLD). During my tour in MAINE I was selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral Commissioning Program. I then transferred to the NROTC Unit at Jacksonville University where I attended the University of North Florida and graduated with a B.B.A. in Accounting. Following graduation from college I completed Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL and was commissioned in 2003. Upon completion of flight training I was winged as a Naval Aviator and selected to fly the mighty P-3C Orion. In early November 2009, I reported to the ROTC unit from Jacksonville, FL where I served three years with the MAD Foxes of Patrol Squadron 5. Although, I am still learning the ropes around the unit, I am extremely excited for the opportunity to mentor and train the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Fly Navy, NFLAMF, and Go Beavs!!!



~ LT Jay Killen

Back to Sea ...

It is almost time for me to say farewell. This tour wasn't anything like what I thought it would be when I took the orders but then again which tour does actually go as expected? I thought I would be at every football game and out of the office by 1400 every day and taking long weekends to go camping and hiking on the beach. Instead I have been steadily working on a MS in Chemical Engineering, teaching Naval Engineering and Weapons, and raising my four kids. My time has certainly not been my own these past two years. As this is published I will be scheduling my thesis defense and I will have taught my last Naval Engineering class. I must say that while I enjoy teaching, I see myself more as a substitute teacher and not pursuing a career that requires me to teach 5

days a week. The most enjoyable part of my job has been counseling students. I feel like I have been able to make a difference in guiding young minds toward their goals. The students never cease to amaze me; whether that be a "Wow, I would have never thought of that. That's a great idea!" or a "What were they thinking? How could they possibly see that as an okay option?" it is another testament to our future in the Navy and Marine Corps.

In last year's newsletter I mentioned the submarine club or "sub club" and I wanted to provide a quick update. Over the past summer three of the ensigns that graduated in June spent many hours painting and redecorating the sophomore classroom in a submarine theme. Thank you to Ensigns Fitzgerald, Mulqueen, and Podelnik. There are charts, pictures,

stickers, submarine literature, and even submarine models (that they purchased and built) and they look great! Sub club is now meeting every other Thursday at 1600 and anyone is welcome to attend.

I have enjoyed spending time with officers from different communities and even our Marine Corps Officer Instructor and while I will miss that interaction I am excited and can't wait to get to my next submarine assignment. I will be departing the end of February for Submarine Base New London in Connecticut to continue my training as a department head. I have been relieved as the submarine officer at the beaver battalion by LT T.C. Bowers an old shipmate in USS NEVADA.

~ LT Jake Jones



Please make checks payable to "NROTC Taffrail" and mail to:

Taffrail Custodian
Oregon State University
Naval Science Department
104 Naval Armory
Corvallis, OR 97331-5401

Thank You NROTC Alumni and Friends

Thanks to all the NROTC alumni and friends who donated money to the NROTC student organization fund. Your donations helped defray the out of pocket travel and lodging expenses incurred by Battalion members who travel to regional NROTC events.

It is easy to donate online...

- just go to our website at <http://nrotc.oregonstate.edu>

- click on the "Alumni" page and there is a window called "Support the Taffrail Fund"
- choose the amount of money you want to give by using the pull down arrow.
- click "Make a Gift"
- follow the directions and that's all there is to it.

You can also use "snail mail" to send a check in the mail.

Events Schedule

Call us if you need any further information on events:

(541) 737-6289

30 Apr — Joint Service Review [OSU]
30 Apr — Spring Awards Ceremony
11 June — Commissioning Ceremony
12 June — OSU Commencement
July/Aug — Summer Cruise/Cortramid

Newly Commissioned

Four and a half years ago, when I first walked through those glass doors into the white igloo-like building I could see the inscription above them that read, "Through these passageways walk the next generation of steely-eyed warriors." I was terrified for what lay ahead in my next four years. I had signed up for the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program and I was entering the building that would consume my life until I graduated.

When I was in high school, I was intensely patriotic – in fact, my room's color scheme was even red, white, and blue. I was inspired by my father, a retired Army officer, to become an officer, and I was determined to be a Naval aviator. These three pieces triggered my interest in the program, but interest alone wouldn't be enough to get me through the program. Throughout my four and a half years in the program, I would be presented with leadership opportunities and responsibility far beyond what the average college student experiences.

There were few other women in the program but I was a midshipman just like all the rest, exposed to the



same regulations and requirements. As I was always striving to be an overachiever, I flourished as a midshipman; I received excellent grades, was ranked high in my class and participated in numerous NROTC activities. I truly believe ROTC instilled in me the necessary characteristics to be an officer such as honesty, integrity, and commitment. Although I received frequent formal training sessions on these topics, nothing had as great an impact on my development in these areas as the personal experiences I was presented with through the NROTC program.

Now as a newly commissioned Ensign, I am prepared to walk out through the same doors. I am excited for the challenges and unique opportunities that lay ahead of me, and am confident to face my future as a result of the NROTC.

~ENS Katherine Canja

We want to hear from you!!

We have seen the light and accept that this "internet" and "e-mail" thing is here to stay.



So, as we step into the cyber age, we ask your assistance in updating our alumni roster, to include e-mail addresses, that we may more efficiently and economically keep in touch with our alumni.

Please e-mail your contact information, to include e-mail address to:

Cass Williams
state.sec@oregonstate.edu
(541) 737-6289
(800) 888-499-6289

Your assistance is appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you.

**Check out our new website
with our newsletters and
events on the web**
nrotc.oregonstate.edu

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS
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