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EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is my last issue as editor of this magazine, and I'd like to say what a beneficial and rewarding year this has been. Again, I hope you enjoy this issue and urge you to forward any comments to my replacement, MIDN Jeff Revels. I would like to turn this over to my replacement, "I stand relieved."

DISCLAIMER:

Opinions expressed by the editor and writers herein are their own, and are not to be considered as an expression by the Department of the Navy or the Oregon State University NROTC unit. Any comments or complaints should be directed to the RIPTIDE editor.

INSIDE THE RIPTIDE ...

RING DANCE

Graduating Seniors enjoy their last formal midshipman function.



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SEMPER FI

OSU Marine Option Candidates prepare for OCS, and have taken a field trip to Camp Pendleton. Read about the excitement.



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COLONEL SAYS FAREWELL

Colonel R.G. Leidich says his last farewells to a unit which has treated him well and has benefited from his presence.



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About the Cover...

Midn 3/C B.G. Willison takes aim at the Marine Option Field Trip.

COLONEL'S CALL

COLONEL R. G. LEIDICH, PROFESSOR OF NAVAL SCIENCE

This has been a busy year for everyone. You all need to be proud of your growth and accomplishments. I am consistently amazed and impressed by how well most of you are able to successfully balance a demanding academic schedule with the rigors of the NROTC Program and Unit activities.

Let me assure you, the goal of earning a baccalaureate degree and gaining a commission is a very worthwhile objective. Assuming you are able to achieve both these goals, you will have established yourself as one of the special few.

I am especially proud of this years' commissionees as they are the ones who I have watched for the last three years - observing their growth, their successes, and even some of their failures.

As the summer approaches, most of us make appropriate adjustments to our priorities. For many it will be the time to relax and reflect on what has gone before as well as what lies ahead; for others it will represent the opportunity to replenish the "War Chest" for the expenses associated with the next academic year; and, for others, your summer cruise will give you a good idea of what you want to do - or don't want to do - in the Naval Service. Regardless of your summer experience, I hope you take advantage of the opportunities and come back next fall all charged up and anxious to meet new challenges.

As many of you know, this will be my last year with you as your Commanding Officer. I have really enjoyed my tour here. Your energy has become my energy and I am very proud of your accomplishments. When you return in the fall, Captain Curtis, a Naval Aviator will be at the helm. I know that you will all demonstrate the same enthusiasm and performance for him as you have for me.

God speed and following winds to you all. Semper Paratus.

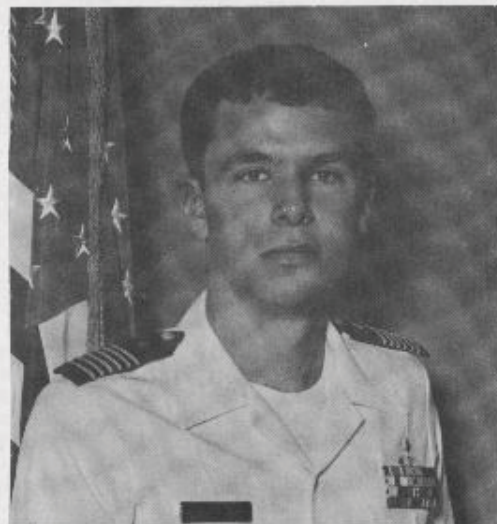


BNCO'S CORNER

MIDSHIPMAN CAPTAIN D. G. MAY

MIDSHIPMAN BATTALION COMMANDER

About this point in the academic year, many of us in the Battalion are all too aware of what we can do for our unit. Whether it be "Rookie-O", Squad Competition, Northwest Navy, Platoon Competition, Colonel's Inspections, or a host of other activities, we give much of ourselves to our unit. While we continue on our near-frantic pace, keeping up with our obligations to the unit, our academics, and other groups, perhaps there is a better focus we could have. How about thinking about what this unit has done and continues to do for each of us? Many areas exist that the unit is prepared to help us in. Three particular areas include academics, time-management, and leadership. Academics. So much has been and will continue to be said about the importance of grades. We all know what they can do for us. The unit gives you the skills to deal with a seemingly overwhelming number of commitments and come out shining, then we are preparing you for what you will be in store for as a junior officer in the Naval Service. A quote from NAVAL LEADERSHIP I would like to share, "Leadership is that quality, inherent or acquired, in a person which enables him to achieve accomplishment from his subordinates by virtue of their willingness rather than by force". Not all of us walk into this unit as effective leaders. Even those who do still have much room to improve. For both cases, the unit is here to help instill those qualities that better prepare each of us for what lies ahead in the Naval Service. So next time it seems you are nearly overwhelmed, think about what this unit has already and continues to do for you.....BNCO



RIGHT FULL RUDDER!

BY MIDN 2/C GREGORY L. HICKS

Coming in two waves, the junior class descended on Bremerton to learn about shiphandling on YTBs (Yard Tug Boats) at Submarine Base, Bangor. Like many before us, we juniors came in a little apprehensive of our abilities to command the helm of a naval vessel. Designed to simulate the environment aboard any destroyer, frigate, or cruiser, OSU NROTC's junior class boarded the tugs and travelled into Hood Canal to practice helm commands and speed orders.

Commands like "Right full rudder", or "All ahead full!" were given in regularity by some 45 midshipmen over a time span of two separate weekends. While aboard the vessel we listened to a lecture about deck seamanship and had a tour of the vessel's spaces such as engineering and the mess. In engineering, the loud hammering of pistons in the ship's diesel engine drowned out the brief comments we received from one of the crewmen about each different part of the motor. In the mess we were able to grab some coffee and even watch parts of some rented movies from the TV and VCR.

While we were there, we were also given the opportunity to examine Bangor's base facilities and shop at the Exchange and use the recreational gymnasium. We were housed in the BEQ (Bachelor Enlisted Quarters) and ate at the combined mess. For night life, we visited the Enlisted and Officers Clubs, where we were able to meet personnel who share a common interest - the United States Navy. At the Officer's Club we met the Commanding Officer of one of the Ohio class submarines home ported there and the Commanding Officer and future Executive Officer of an attack submarine. Socializing with these people included shuffle board, pool, and the sharing of a round of drinks.

During our daylight hours though, we spent time practicing emergency man overboard drills. Using proper relief procedure for both the conn and the helm, fellow juniors and a few motivated seniors relieved each other periodically.

"I am ready to relieve you, sir," the oncoming helmsman or conn would pronounce in a loud, authoritative voice.

The current helmsman or conn would then reply

with, "I am ready to be relieved," and give a status report of the vessel and of any contacts shown, reported, or seen.

Satisfied that he/she had received all pertinent information, and is ready to assume the helm or the conn, the person would then say, "You stand relieved."

"I stand relieved," would be the reply and the helm or conn would be turned over to the oncoming watch.

Bellowed across the pilot house would be, for example: "This is Midshipman Hicks, I have the Conn, the Craftmaster retains the deck." Then, as necessity requires so, a command of course and speed would be given by the conn, and the helm would properly respond.

"Man overboard, starboard quarter!" the watch yells.

"Right full rudder, all engines ahead full," the confident midshipman conning officer yells immediately after hearing the watch.

"Right full rudder, aye sir. Engines ahead full!" the midshipman helmsman would respond.

"Passing 220, sir," the helmsman would say.

"Passing 230 sir. Passing 240, sir," the helmsman would beckon throughout the pilot house.

"My engines are ahead full," the helmsman would say.

The conn would respond with, "Very well helm."

Choosing which emergency turn to use will be followed with different commands by the helm. Occasionally, Senior Chief Rose would pass a little advice to his midshipmen and OCs. LT. Zahn would be in one of the craftmaster's chairs patiently watching his junior class attempt an Anderson, Race Track, or Williamson turn.

While a group of five midshipmen would be in the pilot house, the other groups would be milling about on the vessel anxiously awaiting their turn to command the helm.

The last part of our trip consisted of a cruise around Hood Canal absorbing the sun's rays (through our cotton khakis) and remarking how beautiful the surrounding countryside was. To top all this off, we visited Bremerton Naval Shipyard to see some World War II mothballed aircraft carriers and the mothballed USS Chicago (a guided missile cruiser).

Overall, this was a very pleasurable trip, where for most of us the sea acted as our classroom for the first time, giving us a small taste of what our future holds for us.

RING DANCE

BY MIDN 4/C ERNIE JOHNSON

The last "big fling" of the year was held at the Elks Lodge on 12 May, 1989. Midshipmen and officer candidates all turned out to congratulate the graduating seniors at the annual OSU NROTC Ring Dance. The evening began, as in the past, with the receiving line and cocktails.

The highlight of the evening was the Ring Ceremony. The ceremony begins with the sword detail marching onto the dance floor to take their positions. Next, each senior with their date passed through the sword arch. In keeping with tradition, the senior's ring is dipped in the Binnacle containing the waters of the Seven Seas. The senior would then kiss their date while the will of the graduating senior was read.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Colonel R. G. Leidich, escorting his wife, passed through the arch, and into the ring to commence the evening's dancing. Bravo Zulu to OC Scott Murdock for an outstanding job coordinating the event, and to the OSU NROTC Drill Team for a royal performance as the sword arch.



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS...

LT G. L. SOCHA

BY MIDN 2/C GREGORY L. HICKS

Sometimes, listening to a friend can be very good for your future. This is how Lt. G. L. Socha began his career in the United States Navy. Back in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire in 1981, Lt. Socha listened carefully to the words of his roommate - an ex-Navy corpsman. Later, he looked into the program and saw aviation as the only opening available and grabbed the opportunity. Lt. Socha says, "I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. I just knew I'd be doing it for five to six years after date-of-wings."

After earning his "wings" flying the P-3 Orion sub-hunter, propeller-driven aircraft, Lt. Socha went on to serve three tours of duty overseas.

His first tour-of-duty was to Rota, Spain and Logas, Azores for a split tour of two years. While on tour, he had the opportunity to see Crete, and Greece, quite a change from his home town of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Lt. Socha's second tour was to Iceland where he had the opportunity to also see the countries of Norway, Scotland, and England, and to visit Amsterdam. His third tour was to Siganeella, Sicily where he visited Italy, Germany, and Austria.

"Some of my most memorable moments are of the travel and the operations flights in the Med, especially during the Libya crisis," Lt Socha said.

From overseas, to OSU, Lt Socha said he was a little apprehensive about coming to a NROTC unit, and having the ability to teach and be an instructor. In his departing comments, Lt Socha added that this was a growing experience. "Being exposed to this type of environment I've come out with more self-confidence. That is what I see as a strong point of the Navy. You can come into any situation, and be put into any position and use your training to perform a task which may seem insurmountable."



SSGT L.K. HAYS

BY MIDN 2/C GREGORY L. HICKS

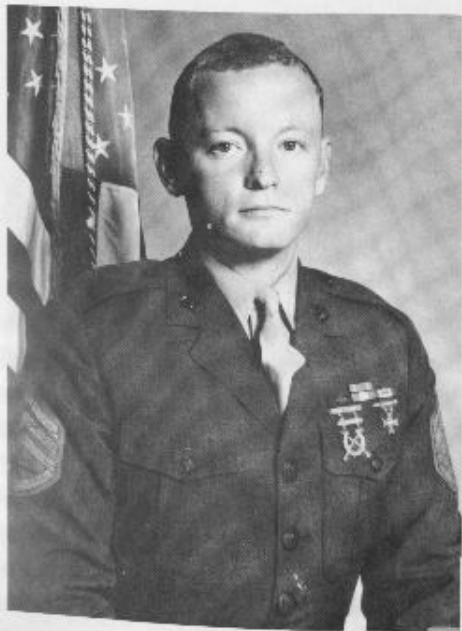
It is part of human nature to try to improve something you really love. Whether it be your car, home, garden, or in SSGT L. K. Hays' case, the United States Marine Corps. "Everybody feels that they must do their own part to improve the Corps, and I have tried in my 16 years to do this."

Indeed, SSGT Hays can uphold this claim. His two year stint as a Drill Instructor in San Diego from 1981 to 1983 has left quite a memorable stamp on some 400 recruits he has helped train. SSGT Hays has also worked as a SGT Instructor at Officer Candidate School (OCS) and then as Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI) at OSU NROTC. "Through this, I now have a better appreciation for what officers go through. And, I hope the future officers I have helped train here will have a better understanding."

SSGT L. K. Hays enlisted in the Marine Corps May 28, 1973 for a four year tour. His first two-year tour was aboard the U.S.S. Proteus out of Guam and then he was assigned to the 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton. In 1978, SSGT Hays was discharged, but eight months later he found himself swearing in again and being reassigned to the 5th Marines. I guess that proves the old adage, "Once a Marine, always a Marine."

Like many before him, SSGT Hays had the opportunity to see the world and experience the joy of meeting new people. Coming from Little Rock, Arkansas, he has had visits to Guam, the Philippines, and Thailand. "One of my most memorable moments is visiting Thailand to cross-train with the Thai Marines. They were aggressing us and one of our men fell onto a stick ripping his leg open and requiring 20 stitches. This U.S. Marine was then taken to a Thai hospital where the Thai doctor, an officer in the Thai Marines said that the U.S. Marines are so tough, they didn't need any anesthetic. Well, the operation was successful, but what amazed me was the amount of respect we got from what I saw to be new and interesting people."

SSGT Hays is scheduled to report back to the 5th Marines in July but, he says this is a maybe, because he has applied for the Staff NCO graduate degree program so he can complete his degree in Business Finance in one-and-a-half years. If this happens, SSGT Hays will be staying in Corvallis with his wife, Jieun; his son James who is five, and his daughter Jamie who is two.



UNITED STATES BULLDOG PREP

By Midn. 4/C J.M. Horenstein
Midn. 4/C D. Vogt

What's all that hollering outside? Welcome to Bulldog Prep. Bulldog Prep is a program that prepares Marine Option Midshipmen and Officer Candidates for OCS (Officer Candidate School), that takes place the summer following the junior year. All Marine options are required to go through this intensive preparatory course. Bulldog Prep prepares the candidates in all fields ranging from physical training (PT) and the obstacle course negotiation, M-16 rifle training and MOFEX (Marine Option Field Exercises). Very few NROTC units around the country come close to matching our rigorous Bulldog Prep training, therefore giving our Marines a competitive edge at OCS.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday the candidates attend a one hour class starting at 0730. In class the students learn how to do things such as: clean and inspect an M-16 rifle, read and understand land maps, and report and take compass readings. Learning these items ahead of time helps to take some of the pressure off the candidates.

In addition to the time spent in class, candidates prepare themselves physically, focusing on Upper Body Development exercises (UBDs), running to cadence, and full pack hikes through rough terrain (called "humps"). Physical Training, or PT, is attended on a regular ba-



sis three days a week, and often on weekends.

Once the candidates have been briefed in the classroom, it is time for hands-on training. This is where MOFEX comes into play. Beginning with a nine mile "hump" to the training area at 0001 Saturday morning, the candidates then set up base camp. Next the candidates go through

Small Unit Leadership Exercises (called SULE 1). Here the candidates learn how to establish small firing teams to accomplish various offensive tasks. Included in this, candidates learn how to read maps, plot points and calculate distances. Although the men and women are not allowed more than a few hours of sleep, they are rewarded with a barbecue after the nine mile, individual, "hump" out. With the humps and field exercises combined, the candidates have totaled approximately 30 miles of hiking.

Though stressful to the Marine Options of OSU NROTC, Bulldog Prep has a definite purpose in that it prepares them for what is to follow at OCS. When asked what requirements are placed on him, Candidate Calvin Austin responded, "Bulldog Prep takes 100 percent of your time, and 100 percent of your effort." Ultimately, these intense exercises teach time management, discipline, and motivation as well as building physical endurance. OSU NROTC will continue with Bulldog Prep in the future. In 1987 and 1988, the number one ranking position in the graduating class at OCS was attained by an OSU NROTC student.



MARINE CORPS

MOFT

STORY BY MIDN 4/C STEVE HARBICK

Spring Break! For some, it may be spent in Hawaii working on a tan. For others, it may be spent south of the border learning about international lifestyles. For a few, it may be spent at home filtering through the past term's overload of learning. But for about 25 Oregon State PLC candidates and NROTC midshipmen, Spring Break was spent in lively Southern California investigating the Marine Corps.

The annual Marine Option Field Trip began the first Monday of Spring Break. The Oregon State delegation departed out of Eugene airport aboard a C-130, headed for El Toro, Marine Corps Air Station. With luggage and bodies packed wall to wall, Midshipmen made their best efforts to get comfortable on the troop seats.

The excitement started early when one of the four C-130's engines had to be shut down due to a mechanical failure. Fortunately, the aircraft's diverse functionality and the crew's expertise allowed the flight to continue to its destination. However, as a procedural precaution, the midshipmen were still treated with an exciting rescue alerted landing.

After the safe and rather routine landing at El Toro, the first night was spent getting moved in, eating at McDonald's, and exploring the base. Many hit the racks early, for the rest of the week they could expect to start each day early.

Following breakfast at 0600 on Tuesday, the group was bused to Camp Pendleton. The first half of the day was spent touring the various support and communication equipment facilities and viewing a demonstration on the training procedures for the Stinger ground-to-air missile. The Stinger presentation also included visiting the high tech simulator used to create many realistic scenarios Stinger crews might expect to encounter.

After lunch, the rest of the day was spent on the weapons range. There, the midshipmen witnessed an impressive demonstration of the Marine Corps infantry's earthshaking fire power. From rifles to mortars, from shoulder rockets to all terrain vehicles...the live fire demonstration was nothing less than spectacular.

By dinner, the group was back at El Toro. After an evening on the base, the next day quickly arrived.

Wednesday's schedule began with a static aircraft display. The display included a wide range of aircraft, some specially flown in for the NROTC groups. Midshipmen were able to make up-close inspections while the pilots and crews fielded questions.

The tour then moved to the El Toro air traffic building. Midshipmen were given the opportunity to hike to the top of the control tower where they could watch the carefully organized teamwork of landing and launching aircraft. The group also was taken to the radar room where they watched controllers meticulously guiding aircraft on blinking, multicolored consoles. Keeping the skies safe is no easy task.

Wednesday's activities ended by noon. Midshipmen were then given the rest of the day on their own. Some went to the beaches, other went to visit nearby friends, and many spent the rest of the day at Disneyland.

With Wednesday night being the last night at El Toro, the group moved to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. The morning was spent witnessing a presentation about boot camp and the facilities at MCRD. It was the first real look at recruit life for many, while it was a time to reflect for those who had been through it before.

It was free time once again after lunch. The midshipmen could choose from various activities including the confidence course, downtown San Diego, the beach, or for the adventurous few...Mexico. By lights out Thursday, everyone seemed to have a story to tell.

Friday's activities (the last day) seemed appropriate—a recruit graduation ceremony. After weeks of grueling and demanding training, the recruits could finally be considered "Marines." The ceremony was no less impressive than the concept. It was an overwhelming process, orchestrated perfectly.

Immediately following the ceremony, midshipmen packed their bags and headed to North Island for another C-130 flight back home. Many spent the trip back collecting all the memories of the past week, while others couldn't resist the urge to fall asleep.

The Marine Option Field Trip was an educational and motivating way to spend Spring Break. Combining the fun and sun of Southern California with a first hand look at the Marine Corps, the week was both informative and entertaining.



WINTER COMMISSIONING

STORY BY MIDN 3/C TIM SARGENT

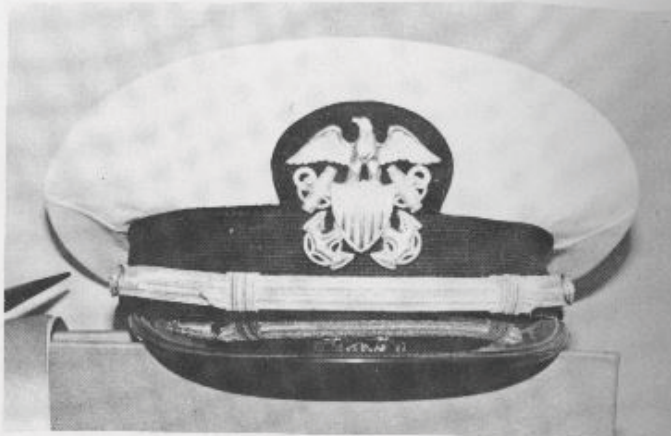
On March 17, 1989, three Oregon State NROTC midshipmen were commissioned as Ensigns, United States Navy. These three were ENS Kris H. Becker, ENS David P. Rausche, and ENS Aaron L. Rondeau.

ENS Kris H. Becker was commissioned by his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Becker. He will be going to Pensacola, Florida to enter Naval Aviation as a Pilot.

ENS David P. Rausche was commissioned by his friend, LT David Duryea. He will be going to Coronado, California to become a Surface Warfare Officer.

ENS Aaron L. Rondeau was commissioned by his father, Mr. Dail Rondeau. He will be going to Pensacola, Florida to enter Naval Aviation as a Naval Flight Officer.

We wish fair winds and following seas to these newly commissioned Ensigns.



OC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

STORY BY MIDN 3/C TIM SARGENT

Officer Candidate Jack Starr was born in Victoria, Texas. He grew up in a non-military family with one brother.

He enlisted in the United States Navy in April of 1980. He went to boot camp and Electronic's School in San Diego and then went to Great Lakes, Illinois for Electrician's School. His first tour of duty put him aboard the submarine tender USS Proteus (AS-19). His second tour of duty put him aboard the auxiliary floating drydock, medium, USS Richland (AFDM-8). Officer Candidate Starr spent a total of four years in Guam.

He also spent one year at Submarine Base Bangor in Bangor, Washington. It was very hard work, a frontline operational tour. He said it wasn't unusual to work seven days a week on the same submarine.

Officer Candidate Starr came to OSU in August of 1988 through the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP). He expects to be commissioned in 1991, and to become a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) on one of our newer ships (e.g., the Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyers).

Officer Candidate Starr likes the program here at OSU. He says the unit has a good reputation and is very active.

Officer Candidate Starr, when asked what event stood out the most while in the fleet, said his second tour, when he was on the Richland (AFDM-8). The Richland was in Guam most of the time, and he enjoyed a lot of things on the island. He also enjoyed the diving in the area, studying the island's history, and the opportunity to visit adjacent islands. He particularly enjoyed the diving, and wants to go back there someday.

His advice to newly commissioned officers: "New officers should try to learn as much as possible from their senior enlisted personnel." In other words, keep an open ear, and learn the technical aspects of the job from the experts.

Officer Candidate Starr and his wife, Sarah, are expecting their first child in August.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

BATTALION COMMANDER	S.W. HURDOCK
BATTALION XO	M.T. KAMMER
BATTALION MCPO	J.A. WELCH
BATTALION OPERATIONS OFFICER	R.M. CHAMBERS
ASSISTANT OPERATIONS OFFICER	L.A. AUSTIN
PHYSICAL TRAINING OFFICER	R.D. MCCORMICK
EVENTS COMMITTEE D.I.C.	D.M. CARTSON
LOGISTICS OFFICER	G.A. MCGREW
SUPPLY OFFICER	M.S. CONYAC
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OFFICER	J.A. LA POINTE
BATTALION INFO SERV MGT OFFICER	J.R. STURVE
PERSONNEL OFFICER	T.M. GREGSON
BATTALION YEGMAN	D.G. YORDY
ALUMNI AFFAIRS	P.K. CARDWELL
COMPUTER SERVICES OFFICER	S.A. JOHNSON
ASST COMPUTER SERVICES OFFICER	M.D. SCHAFER
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3RD COMPANY CPO	J.D. GARCIA
3RD COMPANY 1ST PLATOON CO	S.T. IVORY
3RD COMPANY 2ND PLATOON CO	V.M. OWEN

PLATOON COMP

CLASH '89

★ PAO WINS! ★

By Midn 4/C H. Jimenez



During the winter term it's Northwest Navy, but in the spring term it's all "Platoon Comp..." Five and one-half weeks of drill and inspection culminated on April 18, 1989, with Platoon Competition. It was an opportunity for platoon commanders to be graded on their proficiency as unit leaders. Members of the platoon were responsible for a myriad of military information and current affairs. It was a true measure of the unit's motivation and esprit de corps.

The competition was long and intense. The participants included every platoon with the exception of the marching teams. However, senior members of the marching teams along with the battalion staff were responsible for conducting the evaluations of the meticulous inspections and drill phases.

The competition among the platoons was fierce, but when the "smoke" cleared, there stood one winner - 2nd Company, 1st Platoon, commanded by Midn. 1/c Dawn E. Robertson. This platoon is more commonly known as the Public Affairs Office (PAO).

Congratulations to PAO on a well deserved victory.

AWARDS CEREMONY

STORY BY MIDN 4/C HECTOR JIMINEZ

The winter term is finally over, and the long hours of hard work and dedication have paid off. On March 28, 1989, OSU NROTC midshipmen, officer candidates, and MECEP's were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements. Each person received a term GPA of 3.5 or higher, while taking a minimum of twelve graded credit hours. Also, among those recognized were Officer Candidates Gary Tave and Scott Murdock, both of whom received their first and second Navy Good Conduct Awards, respectively. In addition, Officer Candidate Tony Gascon was frocked (a promotion which allows the individual to assume the responsibilities of the next higher rate, but not the pay associated with it) Petty Officer Second Class.

Midshipman First Class
Richard Goodwin
Richard Hunter
John Jeremiah
Bret Wadsworth
Dave Roberts
Rob LaGrone
John Mikkelsen
George Mengelberg
Ed Johnson
Samual Magliano
Carl Crabtree
Bob Eckles
Midshipman Second Class
Richard McCormick
Midshipman Third Class
John Heffner
Cyrus Kelly
Chris Anderson
James Stewart
Bruce Martin
Midshipman Fourth Class

Ernie Johnson	4.00
Paul Tabaka	4.00
Kelly Underwood	4.00
Chris Moore	3.78
Rose Hobart	3.63
Jeffrey Hauser	3.57
Jeffrey Revels	3.57
Zachary Grant	3.54
Kevin Button	3.53
Officer Candidates	GPA
Andy Beebe	4.00
Stewart Hunter	4.00
Angus Regier	4.00
Dillon Sanders	4.00
Bob Tatum	4.00
George Van Rijn	4.00
Bob Bowers	3.71
Tony Gascon	3.71
Jerry Windle	3.71
John Alleman	3.60
John Hagerty	3.50
Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program	
Gordon Whitehead	4.00
Pete Gillis	3.79

PISTOL TEAM

STORY BY MIDN 4/C STEVE HARBICK

Spring term! Typically, the college student's excuse for kicking back, enjoying the weather and not worrying about much until fall term of the next year. Oregon State's NROTC Pistol Team hasn't subscribed to such a theory. The team has managed to keep busy by keeping its sights on long term goals.

In many sports, competition is seasonal. However, the Pistol Team competes in various events throughout the school year.

In an effort to maintain competitiveness and gain useful experience, the Pistol Team participates in the Willamette Valley Pistol League. In the W.V.P.L., the unit Pistol Team faces many lifetime experts. Some opponents have had more time with their finger on a trigger than many college students have been around.

By scratch standard, the Pistol Team finished seven out of seven. Scratch Standard only evaluates the raw, simple scores. By Handicap Standard, the Pistol Team finished fourth in the league. Taking experience into account, the team remains competitive against seasoned experts.

The Secretary of the Navy Match provides the team with the chance to see how they rate against the rest of the nation's NROTC Pistol Teams. The team remains confident after shooting an impressive score. The scores are sent in towards the beginning of spring term; however, the results and rankings may not be returned until the beginning of the next school year. While waiting, the team has more than enough things to keep them busy.

Another means by which to rate Oregon State against the rest of the nation's NROTC Pistol Teams is the National Navy Postal League. This competition also requires sending scores in to be tabulated and compared nationally. However, the results come in much quicker, receiving them in early May.

A highlight of the term was Nationals held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 5-9. Oregon State's 4-man team, consisting of MIDN 1/C May, MIDN 1/C Lagrone, MIDN 1/C Mikkelsen, and MIDN 1/C Rasche, placed sixth in free pistol competition among a field of fierce competitors. The three service academies rounded out the top slots, while ROTC and private academy teams vied for the remaining positions.

MIDN Mikkelsen put in an outstanding performance against other individual shooters across the nation as he placed 13th and 14th respectively. Midn Mikkelsen also was part of the four man Oregon State University varsity team which took 3rd place in standard pistol competition at nationals.

While not competing, the Pistol Team has been concentrating on getting their squad leaders Range Qualified. After being qualified, the squad leaders would be able to officially call competition matches. The process requires knowledge of national standards while receiving practical experience from mock matches.

Platoon Competition was another big event for the term. Dedicating time to inspections, drill, and correcting discrepancies, Platoon Comp was a team effort. Working together, Pistol Team's platoon finished third at the competition.

Large amounts of time were also spent on physical fitness. The Physical Readiness Test was the time for all the practices spent running and exercising to pay off. However, just because the PRT was over, it wasn't time to quit. Workouts continued throughout the term. It's obvious that the team's concerns not only lie with winning, but also with the overall group's well-being.

It only makes sense that the Pistol Team plays as hard as it works. In addition to fund-raising car washes, the Pistol Team challenged the Rifle

Team to a twelve hour softball marathon. With pledges of money for runs scored, the game was played for keeps.

If Spring term was busy for Pistol Team, it would be a scary thought how busy they might be the rest of the year. Their high standards provide a fine example of Oregon State's continuing excellence.

RIFLE TEAM

STORY BY MIDN 4/C STEVE HARBICK

If only time could be slowed. Unfortunately, just when you need it most, time seems to be the scarcest resource. For the Oregon State NROTC Rifle Team, time is in short supply.

It seems as if Northwest Navy was only a couple of weeks ago, but much has happened since. During the week following spring break, the team competed in the Secretary of the Navy Match. After shooting here at Oregon State University, the team submitted their scores to be judged against other NROTC rifle teams from across the nation.

Until the results are released, all the team can do is wait. The results of the competition aren't expected to be released until sometime during Fall Term.

As with the rest of the Battalion, Platoon Competition consumed a large amount of the team's time. Drill sessions and inspections focused the team's efforts on perfection. The dedication paid off as the Rifle Team Platoon placed second only to the PAO platoon.

The team's focus since Platoon Competition has been on training. By the end of the term, the team's squad leaders should be Range Qualified, which will allow them to officially supervise the shooting range under nationally determined guidelines.

Even with all the work, the rifle team still finds time for a little fun. They will take on the pistol team in a 12 hour softball marathon fundraiser. Pledges will be tied to the number of runs scored by each team. The tournament will be a true test to determine not only who has the greater softball skills, but who has the greater determination for raising funds.

As spring term winds down, so does this season's activities for the NROTC Rifle Team. Summer will seem all the more worthwhile for those who worked so hard throughout the year. For the rifle team, their summer is well deserved, and by fall, the team will be ready for another demanding year.



A CLOSING TRIBUTE

COLONEL R. G. LEIDICH, USMC

BY MIDN 4/C JEFF REVELS

The time has come to move on. Perhaps, the old adage "only the strong survive" is an appropriate theme for this story. It is only befitting that we apply this saying when we speak of Colonel Raymond G. Leidich. The Riptide would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the retiring 30 year Marine Corps warrior.

Colonel Leidich was born and raised in Oakland, California. It was while growing up there that Colonel Leidich received his first inspiration towards Marine Corps service. His parents were subscribers to the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper during World War II. One issue was published with a commemorative photo by Joseph Rosenthal of the Marines raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. The Colonel kept this inspiring photo for many years.

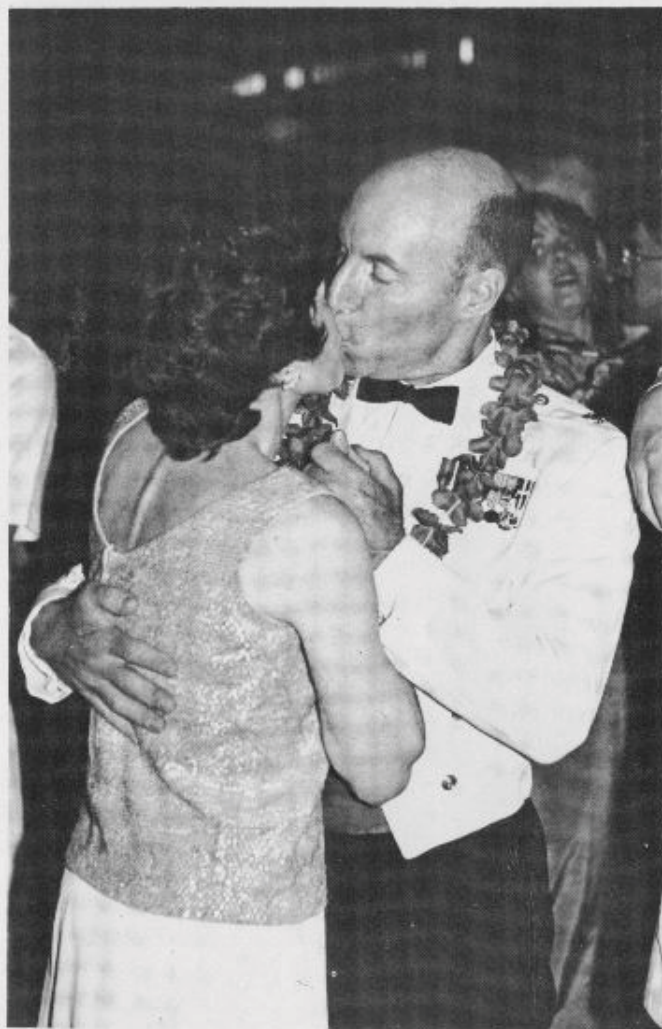
Colonel Leidich attended the University of California at Berkeley and graduated in 1959. At the time he attended Berkeley, ROTC participation was mandatory for the first two years, and the Colonel was a member of Army ROTC. He was not satisfied with the Army's program and later found his way into the Marine Corps' Platoon Leaders Course.

Colonel Leidich has indeed made the Marine Corps his home. He served during the turbulent years of the 1960s, and made two tours to the Republic of Vietnam. With the exception of Vietnam and Headquarters Marine Corps, Colonel Leidich has been mostly a West Coast Marine.

Whether on the West or East Coast, Colonel Leidich will proudly say that the Marine Corps is the finest fighting organization anywhere in the world. He carries the fundamental belief that every Marine is first and foremost an infantryman. When asked to give advice to newly commissioned Marine Officers the Colonel replied, "Always remember, Staff NCO's and NCO's are the backbone of the Marine Corps; they are the ones working down where the rubber meets the road." In a bit of advice to all future Naval Officers Colonel Leidich stated, "Learn your job, but more importantly learn your people." This is a belief that he has carried with him throughout his Marine Corps career.

The great English poet John Donne once wrote that "no man is an island." Therefore it is only appropriate that we also honor Nancy Leidich, who has been by the Colonel's side for twenty five years. The Marine Corps and the Navy demand a great deal from their service members. The support from wives is as equally important and necessary as their husbands' military service.

It is difficult to honor and sum up a thirty year career in a few paragraphs. This task is even more difficult when the man has seemingly done it all: platoon commander with Delta Co. 1/7, rifle company commander in Vietnam, various military schools, infantry battalion commander, and finally Professor of Naval Science. Without hesitation, we can say that the NROTC unit has truly benefitted from the knowledge, wisdom, and experience Colonel Leidich possesses. We (staff and midshipmen) are all the wiser because of the encounter. SEMPER FI...



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