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# RIPTIDE

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SPRING 1992

MARK VI, MOD III

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## FAIR WINDS AND



## FOLLOWING SEAS...

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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY NAVAL ROTC

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# *Inside the RIPTIDE*

**PROFESSOR OF NAVAL SCIENCE**  
Captain R.E. Curtis, USN

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
LtCol B.A. Grimes III, USMC

**STAFF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
Lieutenant J.F. Hillman, USN

**BATTALION PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
PAO MIDN LTJG James Dibble  
APAO MIDN ENS Dennis Mills  
MPAO MIDN PO1 Bruce Ferguson

**RIPTIDE**  
**EDITOR**

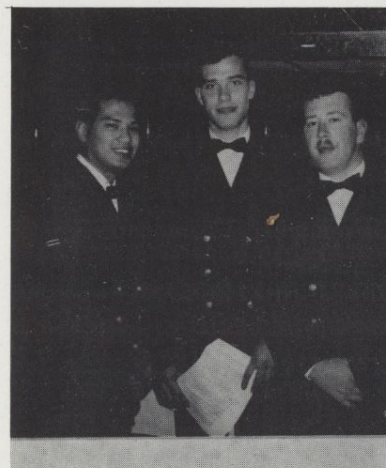
OC Robert Linebarger

**STAFF**

SGT Michael Bostrom  
OC Richard Riker  
OC Christopher Budde  
OC Jon Martindale  
OC Marvin Cunningham

## **SENIOR MESS NIGHT**

The "ladies and gentlemen"  
of the senior class attend the  
annual Dining-in ceremony.  
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## **BULLDOG PREP.**

MECEP's and Marine Options  
train for OCS. Page 4.



## **ABOUT THE COVER**

The Officer Candidates,  
MECEP's, and Midshipmen raise  
their swords to Captain Curtis to  
honor him as he prepares to  
retire from active duty this  
August.

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## **DISCLAIMER...**

Opinions expressed by the  
editors and writers herein are  
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NROTC Unit. Any comments  
or complaints should be directed  
to the RIPTIDE editor.



# CAPTAIN'S CALL

## Captain Robert E. Curtis

### Professor of Naval Science

As I retire this summer from active service, I leave with many wonderful memories of my career. Among the very best are these last three years at Oregon State University, and being associated with the Beaver Battalion. The enthusiasm, dedication, and talents of the members of the battalion have been an inspiration and motivator for me. It has been my extreme pleasure to work and serve with the finest collection of young people I have ever known, and watch as they mature, develop, and gain experience in the essential ingredients of leadership and knowledge. I have been very fortunate to be allowed this wonderful and fulfilling opportunity.

Of the many people to which I owe my gratitude, the active duty staff are primary. Their dedication and talents have ensured that the fine reputation of Oregon State NROTC commissionees remains intact. Just as important to the fine program here are the contributions of the many talented and dedicated individuals who have served in battalion billets. To all of you I express my most sincere appreciation for making my life here enjoyable, rewarding, and fun. I am sure my relief Captain Harry Dyke, USN, will have every bit as enjoyable experience as I have had.

As I enter the twilight of my career, I feel very comfortable passing on the mantle of responsibility to you fine members of the next generation. I can not think of a better profession than to be an officer in the United States Navy or Marine Corps, nor a more impressive group of young people than all of you to carry on the fine traditions of the sea services. I know that I do not regret a minute of my career, would not do anything different, and only wish I could start all over again with you. It's a fantastic future that awaits.

In all that you do, I wish you God's speed, and fair winds and following seas on your journeys. Press On, and remember to always "Check Six."



R.E. Curtis  
Captain, USN



# BULLDOG PREPARES MARINE OPTIONS

## BY SGT MICHAEL BOSTROM

If you've been wondering why the MECEP's and Marine Options of the unit have been running around not looking very happy this past term, it's probably because they're not.

Every Spring, MECP's and junior Marine Options who will be attending Officer Candidate School during the summer take part in the well-known Oregon State University Naval ROTC Unit Bulldog Prep program. The course, which is taught by MECEP's and Marine Options who attended OCS the previous summer, is designed to prepare the students for any situation they might encounter this summer at OCS.

The course is a thorough introduction to a variety of topics that range from care and cleaning of the M-16A2 service rifle to techniques for receiving and issuing operation orders.

Throughout the ten week course, the students receive classroom instruction and practical application on topics they will encounter at OCS.

Week one begins the fun with an introduction to various Marine Corps physical fitness events. The first event is the physical fitness test (PFT) and consists of a 3-mile run in under 18 minutes, 20 pull-ups, and 80 sit-ups for

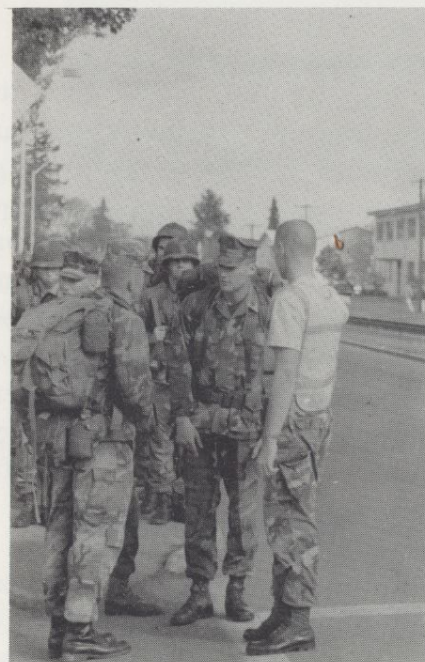
a perfect score. Next, the students are introduced to the combat conditioning course (CCC) which consists of pushups, a rope climb, fireman's carry, fire and maneuver course, and a 3-mile run all done in boots, camouflage utilities, M-16A2 service rifle, and 782-gear: cartridge belt, two canteens, two magazine pouches, H-harness, and helmet.

During week two, the candidates receive an introduction to the endurance course. The endurance course is ran in nearly the same uniform as the CCC but consists of one trip through the obstacle course followed by a 3-mile run, low crawl through mud, a second version of the obstacle course, rope slide, high crawl/back crawl course, one mile run, and completed by a final high crawl with a sprint to the end.

Obviously, this is the candidates'

least favorite activity.

Throughout the weeks that follow, the candidates learn to pull



together as a team. Each candidate receives the opportunity to practice

his leadership skills as either the squad leader, a fire team leader or both if lucky enough. Up until the sixth week, the candidates have improved their physical fitness and studied their classes for the all important Marine Option Field Exercise (MOFEX).

MOFEX begins on a Friday night at





## MECEPS FOR OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

midnight. The candidates assemble at the unit and head to the starting point of a nine mile march. At the end of the nine miles, the candidates are now at their bivouac site for the remainder of the event. Hooches are set up and aligned in the darkness until daylight appears and the days' events begin.

Saturday morning marks the beginning of the candidates' Small Unit Leadership Evaluations (SULE). Each candidate will receive the opportunity to lead his fire team on a forced march from the bivouac site to an assembly area a mile and a half away. At the assembly area, each fire team leader leads his squad through a land navigation problem and simulated enemy attack. The candidates are judged on every aspect of the situation. Upon completion of the problem, fire team leaders once again force march their troops a mile and a half back to the bivouac site. Each candidate completes this evolution four times for a total of over twelve miles. In case anyone is keeping track, we are up to 21 miles now.

Once back at the bivouac site, the candidates are judged on their ability to react to various situations

after having been fatigued by the preceding march. The candidates are graded not on their ability to complete the problem but how they handle their men and the decisions they make.

After all of the candidates have completed their SULE problems, the day is over and the candidates

final graded PFT, CCC, and run the endurance course one final time. Various classes on drill, uniform care, and duties of the interior guard wrap up the academic portion of the course.

While BullDog Prep is a constant challenge for all those involved, there are also many opportunities for good times to be had. New friends are made and old friendships are strengthened. One of these better times is at the traditional Memorial Day picnic. At the picnic, candidates are given the opportunity to "poke fun" at their instructors. Details of each instructor are carefully recalled and reenacted for all to enjoy. Candidates do so keeping in mind that there is still two weeks of BullDog left. Needless to say, those aren't happy weeks.

Not all those who begin BullDog Prep are there when the last day rolls around. Those present are truly proud of the accomplishments they've made in the ten weeks that have passed. Whether they finish first in the class or achieve a personal best, the candidates know they have what it takes to do their best at Officer Candidate School in the coming weeks. Good Luck Devil Dogs!



look forward to a hearty dinner of MREs (meals ready to eat). Next, it's off to the rack for a full seven hours of rest. Sunday morning starts off at 0500. The candidates tear down their hootches and prepare for the nine mile march back to the starting point. By this time, blisters are everywhere, but the candidates stay motivated and finish the hump in good spirits.

The weeks following MOFEX are easy in comparison to those starting out. The candidates take a



# CAPTAIN ROBERT E. CURTIS

## FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

By OC JON MARTINDALE

Captain Robert Edwin Curtis, USN assumed command of the Oregon State University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps in August of 1989.

Three short years later we are preparing to say good bye to him when he retires on 1 August 1992.

Captain Curtis, originally from Davenport Iowa, received his commission from the NROTC unit of Colorado University in 1964. Following Flight training at Pensacola, Florida Captain Curtis was assigned with attack squadron 144 (VA-144). During this tour he made two combat cruises to southeast Asia aboard the USS KITTY HAWK, flying over two hundred combat missions. On one of these missions his aircraft was hit by enemy fire and he was forced to eject over hostile territory and he was subsequently rescued by helicopter.

In 1969 Captain Curtis was assigned to Fleet Composite Squadron One (VC-1), at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, flying the F-8 "Crusader." In 1972 he underwent A-7E "Corsair II" transition training prior to joining VA-25 based at Lemoore, California, where he made two combat deployments aboard the USS RANGER. Next he was assigned as the aide to the U.S. Representative, NATO. Next he attended the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, where he graduated in 1978 with Highest Distinction, and was awarded the Admiral Sims Award as the outstanding graduate of the College of Command and Staff.

Following the War College, Captain Curtis again reported once to VC-1 at Barbers Point, Hawaii for his first Executive Officer, and Commanding Officer tour. In June 1981 he reported aboard USS MIDWAY,

Yokosuka, Japan, as Air Operations Officer. From 1983 to 1985 he served as Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Lemoore,

23 Strike/Flight Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, seven Navy Commendation Medals with the Combat

"V", the Navy Achievement Medal with the Combat "V", the Combat Action Ribbon, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross and numerous campaign and service ribbons. He holds a BS degree from the University of Colorado, an MS degree from the University of Southern California, and has done Doctoral work at the University of Hawaii.

He is married to the former Judith Ann Thomas of Honolulu. They have two children, a son Michael who is an Ensign attending flight training at Pensacola, Florida and a daughter Cathy who is enrolled at Oregon State University.

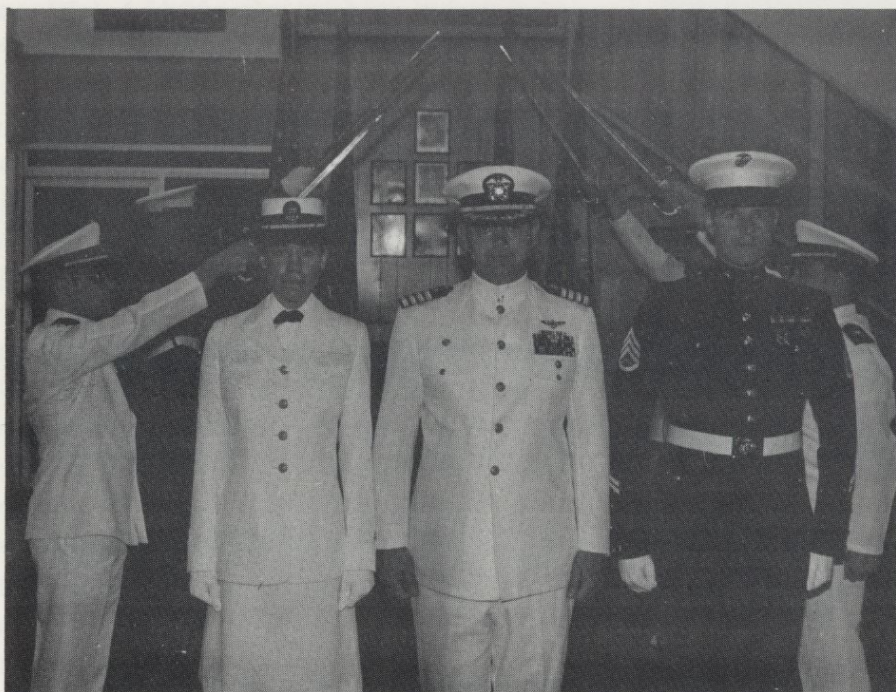
Captain Curtis and his family would like to remain in the Corvallis area if he can find suitable employment.

When asked what his advice to

future Naval Officers would be, the Captain replied, "It's an 'E' ticket ride." "Press on it's a lot of fun!!"

The Captain said that his "favorite memories at OSU were all the experiences with the Midshipmen and Officer Candidates. It is great being around young people because they keep you young."

From all past, present, and future Midshipman and Officer Candidates of the Oregon State University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps we wish you fair winds and following seas, sir.



California, and then returned to Hawaii as Commanding Officer, Organizational Effectiveness Center, Pearl Harbor. He assumed command of the Pacific Missile Range facility on the Island of Kauai in 1987, and detached in August of 1989 to become the Professor of Naval Science at Oregon State University.

Captain Curtis has accumulated over 3500 flight hours, 600 carrier landings and 235 combat missions. His personal awards include the Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service Medals, two individual Air Medals,

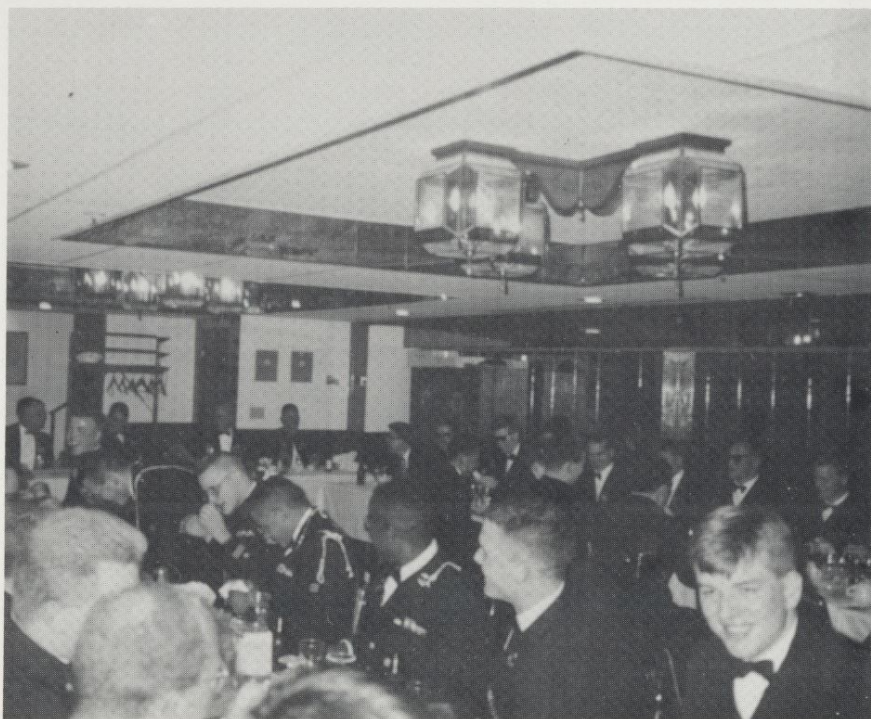


# SENIOR MESS NIGHT

BY MIDN 2/C STUART JEE

The Dining-in is a Naval Tradition dating back to the Royal Navy and days of sail. The event unites the members of the mess for a formal evening of dining and tribute. For the graduating midshipmen and officer candidates, Senior Mess Night was their first taste of what they will experience in their wardrooms in the fleet. The mess president was the BNCO, MIDN 1/C Eric Bass. Seated with him at the head table were CAPT R.E. Curtis, LtCol B.A. Grimes III, Maj M.G. Sessions, CDR Robertson (former unit XO), and Commodore Eddingfield, the guest of honor.

It is the solemn duty of every member of the mess to inform the president of all violations of the mess. MIDN 1/C J.A. Lee was "Mr. Vice," the host of the mess. The most frequent violation was not having an applauding instrument, a spoon. Many of the seniors slipped the side boys some "bits" to retrieve these instruments and collect those belonging to others. Rather than fining the violators a monetary amount, it was common to dip into the grog bowl or perform astounding acrobatic feats while consuming grog. OC Rich Koenig recieved much acclaim for his somersaults and ingestion of grog while balanced on his bulbous head. When it came time to polish off the remaining grog, there was no shortage of



volunteers.

After a break, to "shed a tear for Lord Admiral Nelson", formal toasts were made to the Commander-in-Chief, missing comrades, CNO, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Following the formal toasts, the officers, midshipmen, and officer candidates "proved their prowess" through the eloquence of their toasts and actions. For those that failed, a barrage of dinner rolls served as their applause. CAPT Curtis managed to corner the roll market during the meal.

Commodore Eddingfield, a

former NROTC instructor at OSU, displayed his enthusiasm for the battalion during his after dinner speech. He was effervescent with his praise, and challenged all to do their very best. The Commodore suprised some as he met their pranks with some of his own.

The formal part of the evening concluded as MIDN 1/C Lee made the final toast to the United States Navy, and everyone "discharged" their goblets. The president adjourned the mess, and bid all "Fair Winds and Following Seas."



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# JOINT SERVICE REVIEW

BY OC CHRIS BUDDÉ

The annual Joint Service Review was held at Parker Stadium on May 1, 1992. The Master of Ceremonies, Midn 1/C Pat Mack, began the ceremony by introducing the reviewing officer U.S. Representative Mike Kopetski (D-OR). Mr. Kopetski delivered a short address to the assembled ROTC units followed by a pass and review of the assembled units.

Major Mike Sessions was the staff advisor for this year's event. The man responsible for organizing this year's event was Midn 1/C John McKenna. Midn McKenna was tasked with obtaining the reviewing officer,

and coordinating the logistics for the event and the preceding reception. Maj. Sessions considered several distinguished persons for reviewing officer. Among those considered was Portland Trail Blazer coach Rick Adleman, who chose to decline due to pending business.

In his address Mr. Kopetski addressed the issue of proposed military cutbacks, saying that the United States would need a "smaller, more compact force" in the future.

Midn 1/C John McKenna also acted as the adjutant for the joint formation, which consisted of

nearly three hundred Midshipmen and Cadets. On the reviewing stand with Rep. Kopetski were Captain Robert Curtis, USN, Commanding Officer NROTCU OSU; Lt Colonel Stephen Smith, USA, Commanding Officer AROTCU OSU; Colonel James Swinyard, USAF, Commanding Officer AFROTCU OSU as well as their respective executive officers and staffs.

Each commanding officer expressed his pleasure and satisfaction with the event and complimented all hands for their excellent appearance.

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