Hello to all our alumni and other interested readers. As promised I wanted to provide a unit update in both the fall and spring terms vs. just once a year to better keep you informed of the latest developments in the Beaver Battalion. As always this term has flown by and we're already looking at our December Commissioning and the winter break. More importantly, as I write this the Civil war is a mere 4 days away. It’s been an up and down season but it would be a great finish if they can knock off the Ducks to close it out.

As usual, we conducted our annual New Student Orientation (NSO) up at Monmouth and I must tell you that I am VERY impressed with this freshman class. We had much fewer drops from NSO than we’ve had in the past and this group just seems to “Get It”. GySgt Olivas did a tremendous job molding these young men and women into a more recognizable group of future Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Additionally, they are socially and academically tight with good leadership coming from the OCs and MECEPs in the class. I expect to see great things come from this group.

The Fall ball was a big hit this year and we held it a little earlier than normal to accommodate some of the other scheduling challenges we had this term. This was also the 1st year (or so I’m told) that we’ve formally invited all our alumni to the ball and although we had only a couple of takers, I think we can grow this into a tradition that will become a mark on everyone’s calendar.

Our guest speaker this year was CAPT Tim Wilson who is an OSU Alumni, famed helicopter pilot and currently is on the Commander Naval Air Forces staff as the head of the Centennial of Naval Aviation celebration team which runs throughout 2011. CAPT Wilson was a tremendous speaker and great motivator for our students. On the heels of the Fall Ball we had a visit from one of our Fleet Flag Officers; RDML Dixon Smith who is currently serving as Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

The Admiral had the opportunity to address the bulk of our student body and made himself available to discuss career options for all students considering the Surface Navy as their service selection of choice. Great visit and
an exceptional opportunity for our students. The Admiral’s visit coincided with Dad’s Weekend here on Campus and as a fund raising event, the Semper Fi club organized an “O” Course challenge which they shot out to the entire university. Since this was an inaugural event and it was pretty crummy weather, we didn’t get the attendance we were hoping for but we established it as an annual event and I expect this will continue to grow.

We actually had a series of good fund raising events this year led predominantly by the aviation club which LT Killen will discuss in his note. We were also the lead for this year’s Benton County Foundation Scholarship Run which is held annually with all proceeds benefiting all three ROTCs here on campus. In all we had over 100 runners participate in this event with members from the Marine side of the house posting the top 7 times for the 10K race. Events such as these go a long way toward enhancing the camaraderie of the unit which is one of my main goals during my tenure here. Another good team building opportunity we have established is “Meat Eater Fridays”. One of our most engaged benefactors bought us a large capacity gas grill so every Friday (rain or shine) we pull the grill out and barbeque. This has gone over well and continues to be a highlight of the week. Another event that has gained some traction is our Classic Movie night, where once a month the XO and I buy a bunch of pizza and run a classic movie up in the student lounge – pretty good fun....

Our unit actually made the local newspapers a few weeks back for conducting a record setting Armed Forces Blood Drive. In previous events we struggled to reach 80 donors but this year we had over 130! I chalk this up to good advertising, good inter-service relations with the other ROTCs and just a great group of students in our program. We’ll host another drive in the Spring and see if we can get even better results.

For the 3rd straight year, the Naval ROTC won the award as best marching unit at the Albany Veteran’s Day Parade. And for the 1st year of what I hope will become an annual tradition as well, the Naval ROTC Flag Football team beat the Army ROTC Flag Football team 12 – 6. Again the weather didn’t cooperate for this event as it was played in a cold downpour, but the university allowed us to have the game at Reser stadium complete with scoreboard and barbeque.

The only down side was that they limited us to only 10,000 seats but somehow we made do.

We will be sending four of our students to the annual Leadership Symposium at Notre Dame in February 2011 and the funding for this trip comes by way of your generous donations. Seriously, were it not for the great support we’ve received from our alumni we just wouldn’t be able to take advantage of this opportunity at all.

On the Business side of the house, the funding outlook remains grim. We are still operating under continuing resolution which means even though our modest budget was approved, we have to run each and every expenditure through the comptrollers for approval prior to execution. In our budget we received approval to migrate our computer network to the university’s backbone which will enable continuous upgrades and maintenance for the duration of the contract. We are very fortunate to have had some very sharp students and instructors that have been able to keep our networks afloat, but we can’t continue to rely on getting lucky so this is a good move for us and we are waiting to see if the money will be available. The other piece of technical help we are getting is coming from the university itself. We were offered the opportunity to provide a requirements list for technical upgrades that we view to be essential and the university is supporting our request. Our upgrades will include new computers in the classrooms, SmartBoard technology for 1 or 2 of our classrooms and a document reader and new projectors which will greatly enhance our navigation instruction.

Service selection results were not as positive this year as last. I believe I informed you in my last letter that this is now a once/year event as opposed to twice/year which it had been in the past. So this past October we got “THE LIST” and as it turns out 70% of our students got in the past. So this past October we got “THE LIST” and as it turns out 70% of our students got their 1st choice which didn’t equal the 88% we scored last year but by and large all of our students are happy with their selections. Additionally, we had another 2 females selected for submarines so nationally there have been a total of 21 females selected and 3 of them are from OSU!!

So far we haven’t had anyone selected to commission into the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) which is new this year for Navy Officers (USMC has always had this policy) but we don’t know what will happen for June graduates at this point. The purpose of the IRR is to reduce the amount of stagnant time some of our new officers are experiencing while awaiting start of their train-
ing or assignments to ships. Obviously this becomes a cost saving measure for Navy as well since new Ensigns are not being paid while on IRR.

The Navy continues to push for technical degree majors in their selection for scholarship candidates. So far we haven’t received any word as to whether or not we will have any of the Sideload, Leadership, or Tweedale scholarships available to us as we have in the past. Last year we were told that we wouldn’t receive any and we actually were awarded one leadership scholarship so we’ll see how that transpires this year.

Last piece of news I have for you is that we finally have settled on a unit logo and had a bunch of command coins made. As I’m sure you will agree, these are invaluable for good networking and enhancing unit pride. All of our students will receive one at graduation and we sell them to relatives and guests in an effort to keep a funding stream alive to perpetuate the stock.

So that’s all the news for now and I will write again in the Spring. Meanwhile, thanks so very much for all your great support – you have no idea what a difference all your help has made here during these challenging financial times. As always, please drop by and say hello or have a cup of coffee with us any time you’re in town - the door is always open.

E. J. Campbell
CAPT USN

Commander Comments

Alumni, Friends, Shipmates:

As I sit and write this we are beginning finals week, the Midshipmen are recovering from their Thanksgiving holiday, studying and preparing for finals and making plans for their Christmas holiday break, a little later this week we have the pleasure of commissioning two new Ensigns in the U.S. Navy. Having a few graduates each term gives is the privilege of holding more then one commissioning ceremony each year, and provides a visible reminder to all hands why we are all here.

It is hard to believe we are already at the start of another academic year. Already this year the battalion has had another highly successful New Student Orientation, welcoming the class of 2014, enjoyed the annual Fall Ball, participated in the annual Albany Veteran’s Day Parade and “kicked off” a few new traditions for the Unit, including the “O-Course Challenge” and an Army ROTC/Navy ROTC flag football game. An awful lot for eight short weeks, oh, by the way, they are doing a great job as full time students too.

Among the new traditions adopted by the Beaver Battalion, during New Student Orientation, each incoming class works together to agree upon and adopt a class motto. During the first hours of New Student Orientation, the class of 2014 was challenged by the Commanding Officer to work together to develop a class motto. Once adopted, the class motto is painted on the bulkhead near the entrance to the Unit where it serves as a reminder to all who enter, what is important to our students. The motto adopted by the class of 2014 is:

“Once the mind overcomes the body, the impossible becomes achievable.”

A great motto. I challenge not only the class of 2014, but the entire battalion to be guided by these words, they speak to the value of commitment and perseverance.

The first term of this year has sped by, seems like just yesterday we were welcoming the new and returning Midshipmen, now here we are at finals week. Before we know it, the 2011 will be upon us and we will be looking forward to the big events of the winter and spring terms.

As many of you are aware, Northwest Navy is an annual day of competitive sporting and drill events between the Midshipmen of OSU, U of Washington, Utah State and U of Idaho. This year Northwest Navy will be hosted by the Midshipmen from the University of Washington, and your Beaver Battalion is working hard, preparing for the competition. It promises to be a great event and we are committed to winning as many events as we can, but the primary goal of this annual competition is to develop teamwork and leadership within the battalion and to meet and develop relationships and camaraderie with our counterparts at the NROTC Units in the region. The Midshipmen are really looking forward to this year’s event (maybe because unlike the last two years, this years Northwest Navy won’t involve a full day on the bus each way).

I will echo what the Captain said in that we look forward maintaining contact with you through these newsletters and the web sight and we thank you for your continued support to the future generation of U.S Navy and U.S. Marine Corps leadership.

CDR Mark F. Volpe
MOI’S Corner

It has been another busy year for Marine Options at OSU. This summer saw the successful graduation of six students from Officer Candidate School (OCS). Their sunburned heads, calloused feet, and nervous twitching every time I say “Quigley” lets me know that OCS is still OCS.

Our New Student Orientation (NSO) was again filled with wake-up calls for many. Though not a weeding out process, NSO does a great job filling the void between parental pampering and the reality of what many of these students may someday face as Marine Corps and Navy officers. As was expected, the first week provides the insight for some that the military is not a good fit for them. For others NSO served to fuel the already burning fire desire to be part of something much bigger than themselves. While I am sure some of them will not be raising their right hand in four years, the rest will. From what I have seen, we have some bright future officers joining our ranks.

This fall we have experienced another first for the Marine Corps: An aviator, General Amos, has been appointed as Commandant of the Marine Corps. This shows not only an ever progressing mindset within our ranks, but also that as an officer in the Corps, you are a leader of Marines first and an operator second. While he is an experienced pilot, it is General Amos’ unparalleled leadership that has put him at the helm. I look excitedly at the future path down which the 35th Commandant takes us.

This year marks the end of my “sand bagging” tour at Oregon State University. I can say without a doubt that this has been one of my favorite tours in 21 years. As a Marine Corps officer, there is little opportunity to feel the impact on the future of the Corps. To go the drill field as an officer puts you in a position as a spy or the bad guy attempting to catch a drill instructor messing up; not as a trainer of Marines. Going to TBS hands you an already molded second lieutenant often set in their ways. Yet at the NROTC level you see “boys” and “girls” show up with often nothing more than brains and heart. You are then able to watch them grow into mature leaders who you would gladly serve next to on any battlefield. To be able to experience this is truly a blessing. Now they just need to schedule us a summer tour in Afghanistan and this would be the top assignment in the Corps. Thanks for all your support and Semper Fidelis.

CAPT Nathaniel Doherty

Naval Aviation Club

Greetings! The last year has gone by extremely fast and has been filled with ups and downs. However, it has been an extremely rewarding experience.

I am extremely excited to announce that shortly after our last newsletter NROTC Oregon State stood up its first official Naval Aviation Club. Following some vigorous fundraising in the Winter and Spring terms, 15 members of the Aviation Club were able to make a trip up to NAS Whidbey Island, WA during the Fall 2011 term. Thanks to the excellent hosting of VP-40 and VAQ-135, we were able to ‘fly’ the EA-6B simulator and both the Level D and DFW P-3C simulators. Additionally, the our gracious hosts provided static displays of the P-3C Orion, EA-6B Prowler and the EA-18G Growler followed by a hosted event at the NAS Whidbey Island Officer’s Club.

Trips like these are a tremendous boon to the students. The ability to see the fruits of their dedication is an exceptionally powerful motivator. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, the opportunities to take trips such as these are few and far between and are incumbent on the club to raise the required funds. However, due to this stellar experience the Aviation Club is already working on raising the funds for our next trip. Our next trip will hopefully provide exposure to the Rotary Wing community. Until next time... Fly Navy & Go Beavs!

LT Killer Killen
WOW!!! Another term has come and gone and it has been a busy one for all involved.

This past summer cruise season was a resounding success. We had students all over the fleet, from aviation squadrons, to ships and submarines, even one to an EOD unit. The reports back from the students seemed to indicate it was an extremely beneficial experience. Year after year the response from the fleet for midshipman training continues to impress, and the students are that much better off because of it.

This year’s freshman class seems to be off to a great start. We’ve got another large class this year, but they all seem incredibly dedicated to success in the program. They all seemed to benefit greatly from NSO itself and are quickly acclimatizing to the unit here. It’s always great to see the next generation of future Naval Officers and Beaver Battalion members get off to such a great start.

In June we also bade farewell to several graduating seniors, with 3 selecting for Surface Warfare. Now, in December we commissioned one more future SWO, with several more to go throughout the year. It has been a busy year helping to make sure that each of these future SWO’s are prepared for what lies ahead.

To support that plan, we have fully revitalized the club structure of the entire unit, with each major community having a club. This year the SWO club has been highly active in recruiting new members here amongst the students. Additionally they’ve been hard at work with fundraising. For the Civil War, the Surface Club hosted what looks to become an annual event, the Civil War Car Bash, right out on the Obstacle Course. In just one afternoon of work, these future SWO’s raised just over $600. This money will be used to fund trips to the fleet concentrations areas as well as any other training opportunity to get these students onboard ships and to enhance their training as much as possible.

LT Adam Christensen

We want to hear from you!

We are asking for your assistance in updating our alumni roster, to include e-mail addresses, so we can 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!

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.

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