INSINATORS
P.5

Two of our instructors are leaving. Find out where they are going and what they will be doing.

MARINE CORPS
P. 6, 7

Midshipmen and Officer Candidates spend their Spring Break on the Marine Option Field Trip to Quantico, VA. Read all about this and other Marines participating in Spring Training in preparation for Officer Candidate School.

BOLIVAR:1
AMERICA:0
P.10

Before leaving, LT. Farkas shares with us a humorous story about his adventures under the sea.

About The Cover...
The Color Guard pays tribute at the Alamo during the Fiesta Days Celebration. The Drum and Bugle Corps and Drill Team also made the trip to San Antonio, TX, to perform in the festivities which included a day parade through town, an exhibition at the Alamo, and a night parade back through town.
COLONEL'S CALL

What do you want out of life? How hard are you willing to work for it? What are you willing to give up in the interim, while you work toward your long term goals? Some (many?) of you have never raised these three questions much less pondered the answers. Others have answered these for themselves and are willing to live with the consequences of their decisions. The purpose of this article is not to preach. I do, however, wish to draw your attention toward planning for your future. Look around you. Look at the people you consider successful. Ask them the above three questions. I bet you'll discover successful people with a "game plan" that they periodically review and then STICK WITH IT!! I've told you before that you are a member of an elite unit at a better-than-average university. Some very tangible rewards (degree, commission) exist for those who are dedicated, possess the appropriate potential, and are willing to work hard. That is not to say that you can't have fun along the way and take some time to "smell the roses." You can, and indeed, you must! But, to be successful, you must make an honest self appraisal, establish goals, and set, strive for, obtain, and maintain high standards. One of your goals should be to reach your academic potential. Good grades are a "passport" to better assignments, graduate school, and scholarships, just to name a few benefits. You should also strive to reach your leadership potential. Two components of leadership are followership and participation. Our unit offers countless opportunities for you to develop these skills, skills you will use throughout your entire life. You will be cheating yourself, and the unit as well, if you don't take advantage of these opportunities and do your share. How are you doing? Check the mirror. Ask yourself the hard questions and don't be afraid of the answers. How is the unit doing? Pretty good! Could we do better? You bet. We won North West Navy but didn't dominate. Grades are good but there's still a lot of room for improvement. Some of our teams need more members and some of you are hiding in the woodwork. It's our unit and we all need to work hard together to keep it strong. Do your part, and a little bit more, and we'll always have a unit to be proud of.

COLONEL R. G. LEIDICH

BNCO'S CORNER

Every midshipman has heard this time and time again, but unit involvement is important in developing the necessary skills and tools of an officer in the naval service. Who wants to be "just average" or even worse, barely above the minimum standards? The NROTC experience offers all midshipmen the opportunity to grow immensely within the physical, mental, maturity, and social areas, but midshipmen must strive for these opportunities because they won't just happen. A midshipman's only obstacle is him or herself, nothing else. These opportunities can even extend beyond the unit for midshipmen, especially in the area of campus involvement. Within large living groups, such as fraternities and sororities, there are many valuable leadership positions to be held. Our unit reaps many benefits from midshipman involvement in campus leadership positions, groups, and societies, as it diversifies and expands our leadership growth and abilities. Our unit benefits from this involvement but, more importantly, midshipmen can develop and hone their leadership skills. This allows for a more well-rounded leader from the involvement in leadership positions on campus.

In the past, activities outside the unit have been frowned upon. It should be emphasized that a midshipman's involvement within the unit must be more than adequate before seeking out campus activities; after all, hopefully all of us are here because we "want" to be. Therefore, our priorities should be directed toward NROTC first and foremost and then towards the other activities outside the unit. When a midshipman has these priorities straight, his or her obligations to the unit more than satisfied, and takes advantage of leadership opportunities outside the unit, then that midshipman will be on the road to success in the Navy or Marine Corps.

So I beg of you, don't be satisfied with just the required leadership involvement. Seek out other leadership opportunities within the unit, and on campus too. Do this and the quality of leaders in our unit and, more importantly, in our Navy and Marine Corps, will continue to grow.

Midn Capt. A.L. Rondeau

Good luck on your endeavors.
"It's going to be the juniors' worst nightmare," joked LT Farkas when asked about the upcoming Hero voyage. The Lieutenant then laughed and said that he expected the voyage to be a good experience for almost everyone involved. "For the instructors," he added, "it's going to be a lot of work."

The current plan is to get underway from Reedsport on the afternoon of May 27. The "ship's company" list of the junior class acting as the crew, a few seniors acting as division officers, and representatives from the unit staff filling the command positions. LT Farkas will be the ship's commanding officer and LT Pavlat will act as executive officer. Col. Leidich's role will be similar to that of the Squadron Commander. LT Farkas said, "He will mostly observe." Chief Rose will also represent the unit's staff.

The ship will be run like a regular Navy vessel. Each midshipman will be assigned to a different part of the ship, such as engineering or navigation. The instructors will have their work cut out for them as the midshipmen will be rotated around the various work stations every two hours. This means that every two hours the staff will have to train an entire new group of people. "They won't be experts at anything," commented LT Farkas, "that's not the goal of this trip." What is planned is for everyone to become familiar with a ship's operation. "It'll be busy," he added. The midshipmen will get to experience some of the familiar joys of shipboard life. Pulling a mid-watch (which runs from midnight to 0600) and getting up early, "very early," according to the Lieutenant, will complement the crew's work schedule.

The trip won't be all work. When the midshipmen aren't learning how to pilot the ship or run the engines, they will have time to do their homework, lie in the sun, or whatever it is they decide to do. "I plan on doing some chinook fishing," said LT Farkas.

The trip is expected to end on Sunday morning, May 28, running the river, the weary midshipmen tie up to the pier, clean up the ship and head for home.

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, all second class OSU midshipmen will get a jump on their counterparts at other universities by using the decommissioned research ship HERO as a training vessel.

The HERO, docked in Reedsport, OR, will, if all goes well, be the permanent training vessel for second class midshipmen thanks to the combined efforts of LT Ken Farkas and Quartermaster Chief John Rose (the junior class instructors) and the HERO Foundation, which is responsible for the promotion of the vessel as a tourist attraction.

LT Farkas and GMC Rose discovered the ship while in Reedsport teaching a program called Ship's Log. Ship's Log is designed to teach grade school children about navigation and how to use the earth's latitude and longitude. According to LT Farkas, Captain Eli Bangs, the individual in charge of Ship's Log, took them to see the HERO while they were in Reedsport. "Immediately the lights went on in my head, especially when he said he wanted to keep it operational, about how the ship could be used for navigational training."

Farkas and Dean Warner, an OSU graduate and head of the International Oceanographic HERO Foundation (a non-profit group to promote and restore the HERO), agreed on this arrangement: The NRRTC unit would get use of the vessel over the three-day Memorial Day weekend plus $700 worth of fuel and media coverage in exchange for NRRTC's labor to overhaul the ship into working condition.

The HERO is a twin-engine, 760 horsepower, oak-hulled vessel originally designed for antarctic research. Gross weight of the ship is over 300 tons and it is capable of auxiliary sail power with its 1,800 square feet of sails. With the exception of one trip to Portland, the HERO has been sitting idle for the past three years.

Work done last term on the HERO by the 48 midshipmen and officer candidates included operational tests and repair of the ship's radar and gyro, both of which are used for navigation. Other weekend repair and maintenance operations included repairing and replacing the ship's starboard main engine starter, inspecting the potable water tanks, paint chips, painting, off-loading items to storage and checking emergency pumps. Some officer candidates worked on the vessel over spring break. "The men and women who went down (to Reedsport) did a hell of a good job," LT Farkas said. "I was impressed, and I'm used to watching the Navy at work."

Commenting on the upcoming training, LT Farkas said that for someone who isn't used to handling a ship, 10 knots in a narrow channel is fast enough to be scary. The conning officer must stay on top of things; however in this situation, there will be ample time to correct any errors.

In addition to the training weekend, there is a chance that the ship will go to Portland for the Rose Festival. The ship would be manned by midshipmen for the two-day trip up the coast and into Portland.
FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS...

Midshipmen bid farewell to departing officers

LT McGowan will be entering the Urban Warfare Community, better known to us as the business world. To prepare himself for this he will complete his Master's in Business Administration this summer quarter. When asked what he would be doing out in the "civilian community," LT McGowan replied, "There are several opportunities available, but I am still looking for more." He will then "hop" to Southern California, taking with him his wife and children. He said he would ideally like to live in San Diego, but will settle for Los Angeles.

When asked why he was leaving, LT McGowan said that it was the end of his obligation and that his reasons were personal and not said in a public forum. He also added that, "This has been a 5 year planning process. I didn't just step into it... this has been all thought out." Also, he said that his 8-year career in the Navy was well worth the effort and the benefits he received were invaluable.

LT McGowan then expressed what he enjoyed most about his stay here at OSU NROTC: "Coaching the unit basketball team to the Northwest Navy championship win over the University of Washington, avenging our loss in 1986, seems to stick out the most." He also expressed that he really enjoyed teaching the "How to Study" course, for which this reporter owes him some gratitude, and his association with the "future Naval Officers" that we midshipmen represent. He said that there are a lot of fine, prospective Naval officers in the making and he enjoys having been a part of their development.

In parting, LT McGowan offers this advice to the midshipmen: "To students; analyze your commitment... count the cost... don't necessarily look for what you can get out of it, but look for what you can put into it to get something desirable back. Remember to make the effort and the old adage - what you put into something you'll get that much back. You need to be committed... work hard... and remember the honor code and your duty."

For all the members of this battalion, we wish LT McGowan a fond, fair winds and following seas.

LT. Farkas
MIDN 3/C G.L. HICKS

"Continuing on for as long as the Navy wants me," was the reply from LT Farkas when asked what he will be doing after he leaves OSU NROTC. At the end of this summer term LT Farkas, junior class instructor, will be departing "back to the world." His next assignment is to report to SOAC (Submarine Officer Advancement Course) in New London, CT, where he will remain until about February of next year. From New London, LT Farkas will probably report to Strategic Weapons School, Danneck, Va., for about two months. "I don't want to be an engineer just yet," he added. After Dan Neck he said, he would most likely report to Charleston, SC to an SSBN as a weapons officer on a department head tour.

When asked what he will be doing over the summer term LT Farkas said he would be "working his butt off" to try to finish his Master's in Business Administration, although he will fall two classes short of completion. He said he plans to finish his Master's later - when he has the time.

LT Farkas had a hard time singling out what he considered to be his "best times" here at OSU. His list included: trips to Bangor, last year's ring dance, the fantastic showings by his class on their summer cruises, the students themselves, getting up and teaching in front of a class, Oregon (for its hunting, fishing, and hiking), his year as the advisor for SAME (Society of American Military Engineers), and playing on the unit's softball team - the "Salty Dawgs".

His departing advice is straightforward. To the midshipmen he asks that you realize that you are not here just to get your ticket punched. "Learn a lot while you're here... put in the effort... and get good grades! Never step into things with the wrong attitude, even if you don't like it. Put in the 'Quality Time' - make that time well spent!"

LT FARKAS
United States

Marines Storm Capitol
Midshipmen Visit Marine Headquarters

Midn 4/c G.M. Anglin

MOFT is the Marine Option Field Trip that takes place every spring break. It is designed for interested prospective officers, giving them the opportunity to travel to Marine bases and exposing those with no prior knowledge or experience to the Marine way of life.

This spring break was no different. While most of us were home enjoying our rest and relaxation or off to some idyllic tourist spot basking in the warm sun, prospective officers of this battalion were off running and sweating at Quantico, VA.

Major Cotten, Staff Sergeant Hayes, and 19 midshipmen left on a Navy C-9 transport for Quantico at the beginning of spring break. The freshmen go to see what the Marine Corps is really about. For others, like Midn 3/c McCormick it is "a chance to get back to Quantico and see firsthand what the Basic School is like... and a reminder of O.C.S." As a Marine option, he went through Officer Candidate School last summer and this was his first trip back to Quantico since his ordeal. Above all, this trip allows many Marine option midshipmen to experience things that they have only heard about.

Midn 3/c T. Hims STREET says the things he most enjoyed were "the P.T. (physical training)... and the (Washington) D.C. trip." Both McCormick and Hims STREET found the Quantico trip very informative, for they learned about the roles of the modern-day Marine and the weapon systems available to him or her.

The MOFT takes place annually, usually not to the same base twice in a two-year period. The last two trips have been to Quantico; and before that to Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, CA., which is the desired location next year.
During the summer between their junior and senior years, first-class Marine Option Midshipmen go on "cruise" to Quantico, VA for Officer Candidate School (OCS). These future Marine Officers participate in Bulldog Prep during their junior year to prepare themselves for OCS. Bulldog Prep gives the candidates a sample of many things they will experience at OCS. It is not uncommon to see a candidate locked-up at attention yelling at the top of his or her lungs to the Sergeant Instructor, a senior who has already gone through the program. They practice application of what they learn, such as learning land navigation in the classroom and then going to the forest with a map and compass. The candidates are forced to "run" for everything during Bulldog Prep, which gives them the idea of the intensity at OCS and allows them to get used to it. Basically, Bulldog Prep gives Marine Officer midshipmen a head start for the rigors of OCS.

Candidate Hill demonstrates discipline and bearing for Platoon Commander Farace and Sergeant Instructor Arceneaux.

MOFEX

MOFEX, the Marine Option Field Exercise is actually part of Bulldog Prep. It's purpose is to help prepare Marines for a special exercise at Officer Candidate School (OCS) which requires the candidates to stay up for a 48-hour period. They begin their training with a long distance hike and

Platoon Sergeant Whitehead prepares Candidate Mikkelsen for the weekend rigors of MOFEX.

Candidates Magliano and Hunter tackle a reaction problem.

Photo by Lamoureux

are then put into tactical positions where they have to lead. MOFEX began on Friday, 06 May at 2400 and ended Sunday, 08 May at 1500. This exercise is more than just a test of mental and physical skills and strengths, it is an exercise that should bring out the Marine Officer qualities in each participant. SEMPER FI!
GETTIN' DOWN

The receiving line kicks off this year's Ring Dance as Col. Leidich greets the officers, midshipmen, and officer candidates attending this event. The Ring Dance, originally an Academy tradition, is a formal send-off for the Seniors by the rest of the Battalion.

Photo by Steve Gueck

AWARDS CEREMONY
MIDN 4/C G.M. ANGLIN

The battalion is called to attention. In the front, the place of honor, the awardees stand proudly in formation. A term of hard work, dedication and long hours of study has paid off for them. They stand as an example for the rest of the battalion. These outstanding midshipmen, officer candidates and MECP's have received a term GPA of 3.5 or better, taking twelve hours of credit or more, with no grade marks of incomplete, unsatisfactory or no pass. By this achievement, they have demonstrated the desire to succeed and to be the best. Congratulations to the following men and women for a job well done:

FIRST CLASS GPA
Daniel Christofferson 3.50
Gary Hilberg 3.77
Philip May 3.65
Timothy Rohrer 3.53
Benjamin Shevchuk 3.67
Julie Wilczynski 3.65
Matthew Blondi 4.00
Aaron Rondeau 4.00
Thuan Pham 3.75

SECOND CLASS
Richard Huter 3.77
Vincent Swinney 3.81
Robert Lagrone 4.00
Chris Lamoureux 3.70
Donald May 3.57

THIRD CLASS
Tina Broshong 4.00

FOURTH CLASS
Olin Barnett 3.75
Jeff Bernasconi 3.82
Walter Dorsey 3.76
Bryan Grappe 4.00
John Heffner 4.00

Cyrus Kelly 4.00
Dana Perkins 3.79
Bert Yordy 3.69
John Klein 3.73

OFFICER CANDIDATES
Kevin Jones 4.00
Jeff Runner 3.69
Andrew Beebe 4.00
Brian Delp 3.79
Tony Gascon 3.58
Robert Tatum 3.77
David Alldridge 3.77
John Alleman 3.57
Robert Carlson 3.67
Richard Kirmis 3.53
Mike Pausch 4.00
Barbara Van Rijn 4.00
Robert Bowers 3.73
Dave Carsten 3.80
Jenny Winkie 4.00

MARINE ENLISTED COMMISSIONING PROG
SSGT Ken Wolf 4.00
SSGT Alan Arceneaux 4.00
SSGT Gordon Whitehead 3.73
Top Gunners at Nationals

MIDN 2/C D.G. MAY

The Collegiate National Championships, for shooting in the collegiate ranks, in each category of fire, only ten teams are selected nationwide. Oregon State NROTC sent two teams—one in Standard Pistol and one in Free Pistol, to compete at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO, from 07 to 10 April.

The competition was fierce, but OSU NROTC showed it was a force to be reckoned with by placing fifth in Free Pistol. The team consisted of Midn LT(jg) May, Midn Ens Lagrone, Midn 2/C Mikkelson, and Midn 3/C Cundith. The team was led by Midn Mikkelson, who had an individual place of fifth.

The Standard Pistol Team of Midn LT Sowa, Midn LT(jg) May, Midn POE Racene, and Midn 2/C Mikkelson finished off the weekend in tenth place.

At the Awards Ceremony, both teams received their Silver Medallions for being the second place NROTC teams in both Standard and Free Pistol.

Overall, Collegiate Nationals proved to be an invaluable experience, from which the entire Pistol Team and unit should benefit. And best of all, all six shooters who went this year will be back next year with a strong group of new shooters hot on their heels!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

MIDN 4/C G.M. ANGLIN

Chief Gurney and Paul Ingraham are volunteers that administer immunizations to the midshipmen.

CHIEF GURNEY

HMC Gurney has been in the Navy for sixteen years. At present he is stationed in Salem, where he has been for 2 1/2 years. He joined the Navy due to his interest in medicine and for the educational opportunities available in that field. Although his voluntary duties are not a part of his regular job description, he is happy to help and finds it an enjoyable experience. He is impressed with the professionalism of both the staff and the students here at OSU NROTC. He is also impressed with the high quality officers that are commissioned from the NROTC program here at OSU and is glad to be part of this process.

PAUL INGRAHAM

HM2 Paul Ingraham is in the US Naval Reserve, stationed in Salem. He is a student at OSU, pursuing a triple major. He helps with immunizations, updating of midshipmen health records, and with special events like MOFEX, as a corpsman. He plans to apply for a direct commission in the Navy upon graduation from OSU. Although he is a busy student, he enjoys his volunteer work here at the unit. His philosophy is that if something needs to be done, he'll do it if he can.

We appreciate their helping hands they extend to the unit.

OC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MIDN 4/C G.M. ANGLIN

Officer Candidate Robert Bowers has become well-known face around the unit this year. Known for his extreme knowledge about mathematics and surface ships, Bob has an interesting background that has not always included numbers and the Navy.

Bob graduated from high school in 1975. Upon graduation, he went to work in a grocery store. After two years, he vowed he would never return and decided to go to college. He spent two years at a community college, graduating with a high grade point average (3.85) and many scholarships. He then in turn applied for and received admission to the University of Florida. OC Bowers claims his one term there corrupted him and he received a 0.5 grade point average that term. Out of money and trying to save his discipline, Bob decided to join the military.

He chose the Navy because he had heard it had the best food. He was sent to the USS Nicholson, a Spruance class destroyer in Charleston, S.C. where he progressed through the enlisted ranks. In 1984, Bob was stationed and sent to San Diego for school. He expected to be sent to a West coast ship, but instead was sent to Maine to the USS Thomas S. Gates, a Ticonderoga class cruiser which was still undergoing construction. OC Bowers was the first crewmember to become an officer of the Gates. While he was still attached to the pre-commissioning crew, Bob was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program. He went to NSI (Naval Science Institute) in Rhode Island for seven weeks and then came to Oregon State University because of his desire to pursue a degree in the Mathematical Sciences.

OC Bowers also stays active in the unit. Besides tutoring math and leading the Surface Warfare club, he plays for the Salty Dawgs (the unit's city-league softball team), is a member of the unit's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Committee, and proofreads for the RIPTIDE.

Although OC Bowers believes his reasons for joining the Navy weren't well-founded, he has never regretted it. He has served with the Navy because of the many challenges he has been faced with and he looks forward to those he will face both here at OSU NROTC and those in the fleet upon commissioning as an officer in the United States Navy.
Bolivar ~ 1 America ~ 0

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Lt Farkas

We were on patrol on the U.S.S. Simon Bolivar, SSBN 641(Gold crew) when we received a message we were asked to bank and participate in a SWAI. A SWAI is a Simulated Wartime Attack Interaction. We were tasked with attacking and attempting to sink (figuratively of course) the U.S.S. America (CV 66). The America and her task group were heading east for a Mediterranean cruise. We were assigned a block of ocean about the size of the state of Ohio in which we had to locate the America, prosecute her, and do our damndest to attack against her. That block of ocean was to the north of us, and the America task group was told that we were coming from the south.

The America task group consisted of the America, and lots of support ships. All of the support ships were on the "Great Circle route to the Straits of Gibraltar." They were making noise with everything they could possibly use to make noise: Sonar, radar, radio, etc. I think they had Mess Specialists down on the keel banging with pots and pans. Of course we picked it all up on sonar. The America herself was on a route approximately 60 miles north of the rest of the task force. She was running silent; the only noise she made was from her screws turning in the water and the propulsion machinery within the ship. The plan for the task group was to make as much noise as possible, so that we would be unable to pick out the noise from the America! In essence they were like a decoy. Unbelievably the Sonarman was able to pick out the America's propulsion noise from all the clutter. He helped that he was able to isolate certain frequencies to try and find it, but it shows phenomenal skill that he was able to separate that noise from the rest.

We kicked up to flank speed and caught up with the escorts where we popped up to periscope depth and took a few pictures. Then we dove deep, went to flank, and caught up with the America by means of an intercept course. We managed to catch the America only 5 miles from the edge of the assigned patrol block. If she had gotten only 5 or 10 miles further east, we wouldn't have been able to prosecute her. We popped up to periscope depth to take a look at the America. A periscope on low power is very close; we were so close to the America that it took us 9 pictures to cover the ship from stern to stern. We were close enough to almost see the whole bridge and officers' eyes. We finished taking our pictures, did the simulated attack, recorded our kill, then went back on patrol.

At the end of our patrol we packaged all that information up and sent it to all the various places we were required to send it. It is my understanding that when all this information was processed the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic fleet (CINCLANTFLT) called a meeting with the Commander of the surface forces in the Atlantic (SURFLANT) and the Commander in chief of the submarine forces in the Atlantic (SUBLANT). These three gentlemen got together to discuss the SWAI, and SURFLANT asked SURFLANT about the mission. SURFLANT replied that they had really fooled them this time. "We the surface forces had all the escorts on the Great Circle route, and the America north of the Great Circle route, and because of all the background noise, the submariners were unable to locate the America!" Then CINCLANTFLT asked SUBLANT what he had to say about the issue. SUBLANT replied, "If a picture is worth a thousand words then nine pictures are worth about nine thousand words." He took out the pictures we had taken of the America, and placed them around the table.

Soon after, SURFLANT excused himself from the meeting, as he had some other matters which required his attention. All kidding aside; for you surface warfare people, aviators, and marines on ships: Don't get too cozy in your rack, because the saying "Big brother is watching you" really does apply when it comes to submarines...

CO INSPECTION

"Battalion. Atten'hut", came the cry from the Battalion Commander as Colonel Leidich entered Gill Coliseum. Midshipmen had struggled all morning to keep their whites free of dirt, lint, and the dreaded grass stains. In their heads they were going over knowledge that they had been reviewing for weeks. Amidst a flurry of last minute lint removal, I.P. trimming, and general nervousness, the order was passed to fall in and prepare for inspection. Thoughts were reflected in the faces of those anxiously awaiting the inevitable arrival of the Colonel and his staff officers: "Is my gig line straight?", "Are there smudges on my cover?", "Do I really have all my information down?", the tension was so thick one could cut it. When it was all over everyone agreed that it was not the terrible nightmare they had thought it was going to be. There were no "off the wall" questions and the inevitable weeks of preparation had resulted in an overall confidence that everyone would survive this inspection. The preparation and confidence showed through as the Colonel was overall very pleased with what he saw in the Battalion.

Mids Visit Portland

May 17th, the freshman class will travel to Portland on the annual Damage Control Trainer field trip. The purpose of the trip is to familiarize the new midshipmen with damage control.

The trip will be run by a Senior Chief Hull Technician at the reserve center in Portland. Several activities are planned. The midshipmen will be introduced to damage control equipment, from Oxygen Breathing Apparatus (OBA's) to Pumps. They will learn to soft-patch pipes and will handle hoses pumping out 125 psi water. The highlight of the trip, however, is the Wet Trainer where everyone has a chance to patch pipes while being sprayed with very cold water. This ensures a realistic atmosphere.

The group is scheduled to leave at about 0600 and will spend the day at the center. The atmosphere is an informal, hands-on one where everyone, according to LT Pavlat, can "have a good time."
MIDSHIPMEN REMEMBER THE ALAMO

TEAMS MARCH AT FIESTA DAYS PARADE IN SAN ANTONIO

MIDN 3/C J.C. DYKES  MIDN 4/C J.M. FREUDENTHAL  MIDN 4/C M.S. ROGERS

At 0600 on a normal, cloudy Thursday morning there was something going on. Three teams, Color Guard, Drum and Bugle Corps, Drill Team and a PAC crew went to San Antonio, Texas for the last days of their Fiesta days celebration. They arrived to sunny, hot, and humid Texas weather at about 1330 at Kelly Air Force Base. From the C-9 they traveled to their new home for the next three days—the barracks of Fort Sam Houston. Soon they were unpacked and out to see the wonderful sights of San Antonio.

One breakfast was served in the enlisted mess hall. Most of the anxious midshipmen ate a little something before the parade. Once at the parade, the Color Guard had the fortune to be located at the vanguard, followed by the Drum and Bugle Corps and Drill Team. Throughout the 2.5 mile parade route, the D&B played four songs: Semper Fidelis, Anchors Away, Marines Hymn, and When the Saints Go Marching In. As for the Drill Team, the 93-degree-plus heat was an important obstacle to overcome in their performance. Profuse perspiration made performing maneuvers difficult. “It was like doing weapon tosses with a coat of grease on the weapons,” said one drill team member. Fortunately, hours of practice paid off for the Drill Team as no weapon was dropped.

After completion of the parade, many sunbathed, studied or just goofed off until the sun went down and the night life began. The Drum and Bugle Corps started their evening with a team dinner down on the Riverwalk, a delicious meal of hot, spicy Mexican food. Later, many midshipmen set off for the La Madre to dance the night away. Others elected to go up the Tower of the Americas, a 580-foot tower quite similar to the space needle in Seattle. All too soon the midnight bells rang, calling them back to Fort Sam Houston to rest for the next day.

The Drum and Bugle Corps, Color Guard and the Drill Team were all up bright and early to prepare for a special exhibition in front of a large crowd outside the Alamo. After the show and a tour of the historical monument, many went back to the barracks for an afternoon of study and relaxation. At 1600 they left for San Antonio again for our long-awaited night parade; this would be the grand finale of the whole trip. Just before the parade started, all three teams were told they weren’t going to be able to perform in the parade. Thirty minutes later, after persuading the parade officials, word was passed to the teams that they would march in the night parade. At about 1930 they finally got underway. For the Drill Team, the weather was now ideal, a cool 81 degrees at dusk. The Drum and Bugle Corps performed a new maneuver, “The Alamo,” designed just for this occasion. The crowd went wild.

Platoons Clash...

MIDN 3/C J.E. HEIKES

It’s about that time of year again. Anxious midshipmen are patiently waiting for the order to “fall-in.” Suddenly, the order is given and people snap into formation. What is going on, is this a mobilization, are the Russians coming, is drill over already? The answer to all these questions is of course a very resonating “NO!” In reality, all the excitement is due to the annual midshipmen ritual of platoon competition.

For weeks, midshipmen from every platoon have been busily preparing for the competition, which consists of two inspections and a regulation drill phase. The individual platoons beefed up their marching skills in extra drill sessions and wired inspection information in numerous meetings held before the big day.

In the end Sgt. Whitehead and 3rd company, 2nd platoon emerged victorious in all categories, followed closely by the Pistol Team and the Rifle Team. All those involved deserve a lot of congratulations for all the time and effort put into getting ready for the event.
COMMISSIONING

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