

# The Alumni Anchor

Academic Year 2006-07

January 2007



## NROTC UNIT

- CAPT Jimmer Sullivan
- CDR Patrick McNamara



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## News from Captain James R. Sullivan

Greetings from Oregon State where we are molding your next generation of steely eyed warriors. I have just completed my first term here as the Commanding Officer and I can't express enough how incredibly energized I am to be here. I have found the students to be highly motivated and I have challenged them to become the best officers they can be.

We have been extremely busy participating in a variety of events this term. In September we started the school year off hosting a New Student Orientation (NSO) for the incoming midshipman and Navy and Marine Corps enlisted. The unit is currently about 130 strong with 118 on scholarship and 12 College Programmers working toward earning a scholarship. We were very successful last year with nearly 90% of all eligible College Program candidates earning a two or three year scholarship. Navy enlisted STA-21 and Marine enlisted (MECEP) make up nearly 45% of our students. About one sixth of our students are female.

Our focus here has been on three areas. Academics where we have consistently demonstrated a GPA better than the average OSU GPA. Physical Fitness where the majority of students score Outstanding or Excellent on their physical fitness tests. And Military Aptitude where we are working to ensure each student serves in a number of leadership roles. Additionally, we supplement the military aptitude with our battalion lab sessions and Naval Science classes.

We have enjoyed a number of great training opportunities this term. Instilling a sense of pride and tradition, the Navy birthday celebration and Marine Corps birthday celebration reminded us of our humble beginnings and incredible advances. At our Fall Ball we were blessed to have Col Michael C. Howard, USMC (ret), enthrall the students with his insights gained as a veteran of two Iraq deployments. CAPT Jake Warriner, Commodore Training Air Wing TWO and OSU NROTC grad class of '82, flew into town in his T-45 and provided



a discussion on aviation training. And finally, the drill and color teams performed magnificently in the Albany Veteran's Day parade each earning second place in their respective competitive categories.

The students have represented our unit well with competitive intramural football and intramural volleyball. They are also directly responsible, in conjunction with their Army and Air Force ROTC brethren, for providing 84 units of blood for our service members overseas as part of a Blood Drive on our quarterdeck in November. This sense of patriotism and camaraderie is what I have loved in my days in the Navy and I am glad to see it already present in our future officers.

In closing, I invite you to come by the unit anytime you're in town and take a tour of the building. We'd be happy to show you all we're doing.

# New Students Report to Armory

From 15 Sept to 22 Sept, Oregon State University NROTC conducted New Student Orientation (NSO). The training is geared towards incoming freshman and is meant to introduce the newest members of the NROTC battalion to the basics of the military lifestyle.

Directly responsible for the candidates training were

six hand-picked squad instructors who received additional training prior to the 15<sup>th</sup>. These instructors



represent the best OSU NROTC has to offer and performed their duties extremely well. Although the training is geared towards the new students, it also offers an opportunity for the instructors to gain leadership experience.

NSO began with four days of training at the Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth. The candidates were instructed in military customs and courtesies, uniform preparation and wear, as well as close order drill. During all the training, strict military discipline was required of the candidates. Physical training was

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also emphasized and candidates

participated in demanding physical activities as often as three times every day.

The last day of training consisted of marksmanship training and a live fire exercise at the campus firing range. After the live fire exercise, the candidates participated in the Battalion Commander's inspection which required that they put into practice much of the knowledge they have gained during the previous training.



## Brief from the Marine Officer Instructor

As 2006 draws to a close, the opportunity to address our many alumni and friends presents itself for the first time. It has been 18 months since I departed sunny Camp Pendleton, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. This is my first tour on independent duty, and it has proven a unique and challenging experience. I am grateful for the support given to me by alumni, veterans, and friends of the unit on campus, and in the community.

I am also grateful to our current students for making this a rewarding job. They have challenged me as much as I have challenged them. Your Beaver Battalion continues to lead the way in intensity and enthusiasm, as evidenced by their outstanding performance in traditional events like Northwest Navy, and new challenges like Joint Service Olympics. Pride and professionalism has been displayed during all of our special events. OSU NROTC is

*"Producing students who are mentally and physically tough is my mission"*

the unit of choice in the surrounding communities for support of patriotic observances and military honors. The willingness of our student body to volunteer their free time, after an already packed training and academic schedule, is a testament to their dedication to service.

After some aggressive recruiting over the past year and a half the Marine Option population at OSU has grown to thirty intrepid souls, or one quarter of total unit enrollment. We are evenly split between Midshipman, and Marines from the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program. The MECEP's joining the unit from the fleet in the last two cycles are almost all veterans of combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They bring an experienced and urgent prospective to their peer group, not traditionally associated with ROTC students. This trend will

continue in future years.

Whether prior enlisted or not, completion of Officer Candidates School is the elephant in the room for all prospective Marine Corps Officer's. "Bulldog" as it was traditionally known has been renamed the "6 Week Commissioning Course." Midshipman, MECEPS, and PLC candidates, are now evenly spread amongst Echo and Golf companies to ensure an equitable standard of performance is applied and achieved. As in the past only the best prepared students will make it through. Producing students who are mentally and physically tough is my mission.

I remain dedicated to helping each individual member realize his or her goal, while ensuring the contribution of OSU NROTC to the National Defense is the highest quality.

Semper Fidelis,  
MOI



# 2006 Navy and Marine Birthday Ball

The 231<sup>st</sup> Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball was held on October 21, 2006 at the Memorial Union ball room centrally located in the middle of the Oregon State University campus. There was an excellent turn out with approximately 200 Sailors, Marines, and their dates in attendance.



The night began with the traditional Navy and Marine Corps cake cutting ceremony. The ceremony was lead by a marine option mid-

shipman, who personally trained all participants in the event and ensured it was conducted in the most professional manor

Following an outstanding ceremony and dinner, Capt. Jimmer Sullivan gave a few brief remarks that lead up to the guest of honor. The guest of honor was Col. Michael Howard who had just recently retired from the Marine Corps. He gave a revealing speech about his experiences in Iraq and what future junior officers might expect.

Along with his speech, Col. Howard presented a slide show of his experiences in Iraq. For many of the unit members this was real close to home considering this is their fu-

ture.

The 2006 Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball was as it always is, an outstanding event that presented nothing less than the highest levels of military professionalism.



## Joint Service Review (JSR) 2006

On May 5, 2006 the Navy and Marine Corps members of the Oregon State University NROTC unit, in conjunction with Army and Air Force ROTC units, participated in the 88<sup>th</sup> annual Joint Service Review, held at the intramural fields just north of Gill Coliseum. This year's reviewing officer and



guest speaker was retired Brigadier Gen. James B. Smith, a former United States Air Force fighter pilot who, while flying F-15 and T-38 jets, logged near 4,000 flight hours in the Air Force.

A combined group of more than 300 ROTC students participated to display the proud tradition that the

military shares with OSU, a tradition that dates back to 1918 when Governor Withycombe, a former

Dean of the Agricultural School at Oregon Agricultural College reviewed troops during World War I. Along with a regular class schedule and unit activities, those involved took part in five

early morning practices during the week to ensure this year's JSR would be executed with precision. With OSU being one of only 48 schools in the country to offer military training in all branches, the annual Joint Service Review allows the community to see the excellence that the OSU ROTC strives for and consistently achieves.

## Welcome Bravo Company Advisor!

As the new Aviation advisor at Oregon State NROTC, I would like to introduce myself. I grew up in Southern California. I graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in German, and received my commission through Officer Candidate School in 2001. I earned my wings as a Naval Flight Officer and was selected to fly the P-3C Orion. I recently transferred to the ROTC Unit from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where I served 3 1/2 years with Patrol Squadron 47. I am still learning the details of the ROTC world, but am excited to be teaching and mentoring the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps Officers.

# Words from the Battalion Commander



As the Battalion Commander I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank the many people that helped me in my journey this past 6 months. I have had the distinct pleasure and opportunity to work and learn from two Commanding Officers during my tenure, Captain Gary Klink and Captain Jimmer Sullivan, both of whom have affected me greatly. The rest of the unit staff has also left an indelible mark on my growth as a leader and person. The lessons that I learned as the Battalion Commander will no doubt guide me in my actions as a junior officer.



The battalion commander encouraging new students at NSO

The most important duty that my staff and I are charged with is shaping and mentoring the future

leaders of this battalion. Promoting an atmosphere that values teamwork and camaraderie in addition to professional and academic development is key to accomplishing that mission. By embracing and practicing these values we will undoubtedly enhance our ability to become better leaders. If you are wondering if I forgot about the core values, rest assured, I did not. I expect the core values to be so embedded within each of us that it is not a matter of practice. Rather they become an innate sense of self that comes with the transformation into becoming a Navy and Marine Corps officer.

Another key to developing future leaders was to capitalize on the immense breadth of knowledge that already existed within our ranks. I believe we were successful in challenging every member of the unit to break out of their normal routines by engaging and learning from others in order to broaden their horizons.

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The success of the unit is not possible without the help of every individual within the battalion. That being said, my N-staff and Company Commanders were paramount in executing the mission and did a superb job. Moreover, the very nature of Beaver Battalion as a training environment serves as a great place to test our leadership abilities. Weakness and strengths will show. My vision of fostering a cohesive unit is no more apparent than in the culmination of each event that my staff and I were responsible for. In the following pages you will learn more about each of those events.

In closing, this job comes with immense responsibility but it also comes with innumerable rewards; like working hand in hand with the senior officers enabling me to become the best leader that I possibly can. Rest assured the Oregon State University NROTCU is in good hands.

## 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.

If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to **"Taffrail"** and mail to:

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

## Events Schedule

22 March — Commissioning Ceremony  
24 March — Northwest Navy [Washington]  
03-04 May — Joint Service Review [OSU]  
16 June — Commissioning Ceremony  
17 June — OSU Commencement  
18 August — Commissioning Ceremony

See website for details:  
[www.nrotc.oregonstate.edu](http://www.nrotc.oregonstate.edu)



## ...from the Surface Warfare Officer

Here at Oregon State NROTC, we are extremely proud to be Beavers. Not only has the battalion enjoyed seeing the football team have one of the best seasons in a long time, but we have also enjoyed being located behind the home of the 2006 National champion football team!



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Our Beaver Battalion has enjoyed our own victories as well this year by winning the overall trophy at Northwest Navy 2006 in Moscow, ID.

Another victory for the battalion was in the area of recruiting. All six

of our eligible College Program midshipmen were awarded NROTC scholarships this past year! Another prestigious scholarship, the Tweeddale Scholarship, designed to recruit technical majors interested in Nuclear Power was awarded this past fall 2006 term to an outstanding Physics major. Additionally, we recruited an unprecedented eleven College Program midshipmen into the battalion, who have transitioned very well into the NROTC unit.

We have also proudly commissioned 36 officers into the Navy and



**Go Beavs!**

Marine Corps this year. Of these new officers, ten were commissioned

as SWOs, fourteen submariners, eight pilots, one NFO, one EOD, and two were chosen for graduate studies. Of those midshipmen chosen for graduate studies, one is attending the Air Force Institute of Technology and the other Naval Postgraduate

School. I am very confident every one of these outstanding young men and women are prepared to serve our country well.

Congratulations on a fine year Beaver Battalion and "GO BEAVS!"

## Special Visitors at the Armory — Class of 1956 Reunion

We had an extraordinary opportunity this year to visit with several members of the OSU NROTC graduating class of 1956. It was quite rewarding to get an idea of what life as a midshipman at the Beaver Battalion was like during their time.

One of the "sea-stories" we had the pleasure of hearing was told by a gentleman who recounted the return journey he made with another midshipman after completing their summer cruise training.



In an attempt to save money they

decided that it would be a good idea to "thumb" their way back to Corvallis. We were assured that if we ever found ourselves stranded in need of transportation, that as a service member in uniform, we would not have to wait long!

*"It is quite a touching moment when brothers in arms are reunited long after their service together"*

As we stood there talking another gentleman entered the quarterdeck; turns out he was the other half of the hitchhiking package. It is quite a touching moment when brothers in arms are reunited long after their service together and can reflect on their lives. We imagine ourselves in the same position fifty years from now, or at least that is our hope.



Thanks to the OSU NROTC class of 1956 who allowed us to be a part of your reunion. You will never know how rewarding your visit was for us as officer candidates and midshipmen.



# Oregon State Meets the Needs of the Navy

When NROTC alumni visit and families visit the Naval Armory they often ask about the demographic makeup of the unit and the Navy's current needs by community.

As of September 2006, we had 121 students enrolled in NROTC Oregon State University. 10 (8 %) of our students are enrolled under the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP). They enlisted in the Marine Corps and through a competitive national program. MECEP students attend a course at The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, VA at the end of their first year in a stressful 10-week course designed to assess their leadership potential.

70 (58%) of our students are midshipmen who recently graduated from high school and either received a national scholarship or decided to participate as a college program student in the hopes of receiving a scholarship. 13 of the 70 midshipmen pursue a commission into the Marine Corps through a "Marine Option." 49 of the 70 enjoy a four-year scholarship awarded through national competition before they graduated from high school. 16 of the 70 Midshipmen earned a scholarship during or after their Fourth Class (4/C), or freshman year. The

remaining 15 are College Program students who participate in the hopes of earning a scholarship. Scholarship Midshipmen participate in a nominal 30 days of summer training.

39 of our 121 students are participants in the Seaman-to-Admiral (STA) program. They enlisted in the Navy and were selected for a commissioning program through a competitive Navy-wide selection process. 22 of our 39

STA students already committed themselves to the Nuclear Power program and will ultimately either serve in submarines or aircraft carriers. The remainder of our STA students are sprinkled among STA Core, who get to choose their community prior to graduation, pilot, Naval Flight Officer (NFO), Surface Warfare, and Intelligence. STA students have three years to complete their degree requirements and take classes all year. They do not enjoy the benefit of summer training on cruise with operational Fleet units.

So what happens when you throw

Midshipmen, STA and MECEP students in the cultural blender and hit the mix button? The results are good. Everyone participates in Battalion leadership development and extracurricular activities. A handful of our MECEP students have recent combat experience. They provide an earnest edge and productive tension

to Physical Training (PT), field exercises, and class discussions. STA students bring solid academic skills and some fleet perspective. Midshipmen bring youthful zeal and sincere desire to serve. Oregon State MECEP and Marine Option students perform well during the summer courses at

TBS. STA students from Oregon State comprise one of the most plentiful accession sources into the Navy's Nuclear Power Program. Midshipmen provide the youthful base that is most likely to stay and serve 20-30 years.

The Navy's current officer accession priorities communicated by Naval Service Training Command to Oregon State include nuclear power officers and Naval Flight Officers. The "Best in the West" continues to deliver through strong advising, mentoring, and a good demographic spread in the student Battalion.



## New Lieutenant's View of OSU NROTC



My first term here at Oregon State NROTC has come and gone and I will say that this is a great program. The enthusiasm and dedication of the students has been overwhelming. We have a great mix of students, 49 of the 117 students have fleet experience. I am confident that we are producing officers that will perform well in the fleet.

Being the resident Submariner I should talk a little about nuclear power. Since the last newsletter we have commissioned over twenty ensigns into the nuclear power field. That does not include the ten students that have been accepted by Naval Reactors this fall. We are quite proud that Naval Reactors has accepted every Beaver that has interviewed since anyone on staff can remember.

**(continued next page—see view of NROTC)**

## ... View of NROTC (continued from page 6)

Another submarine tradition had been the annual trip to the Submarine Ball. The past couple of years we have taken a delegation of Midshipman up to the ball and to Naval Base Kitsap. We will be there again this spring, hopefully we will see some alumni there.



Crew members handle lines prior to mooring the *Ohio-class* fleet ballistic missile submarine *Nebraska* (SSBN-739) at her new home port of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Wash, Oct. 20, 2004.

Also, I am happy to report that the Mare Nostrum club is alive and well. The current president is a MIDN 3/C and the club has been meeting three times a week. Activities have included physical training, sports, movies, community briefs, and professional development seminars. Rock climbing and paintball are among the activities planned for next term.

We are always looking for new ways to expose the students to fleet experience (salt), so if anybody is coming back to the area stop by and share some sea stories.

Our submarine advisor served in USS Nebraska Blue from August 2003 to



**Go Big Red!!**

June 2006

## Northwest Navy Competition 2006

The annual Northwest Navy Competition (NWN) was hosted by the University of Idaho, in Moscow, this year. In attendance were the University of Washington, the University of Utah, and the combined team of Washington State and University of Idaho. The planning and organization for this event offered up some unique challenges. The Officer in Charge put in many long hours coordinating with hotels and making other logistical arrangements to help get the Beavers to Idaho. Each and every Beaver Battalion member put in a lot of time and effort to make the event such a great success this past year.



With 10 events including Physical Skills, Basketball, Volleyball, Drill team, Color guard, and Academics early morning practices and dedication to teams was a

huge commitment for many Beavers and it was attributed to their hard work and dedication that reflected in our scores and a first place finish overall in the competition. The events ran smoothly for the most part and most were able to enjoy and relax as the competitions unfolded. It was a great time to collaborate with the other NROTC units from around the Northwest and a good time getting to know other future officers. The competition reflected true determination as a MIDN 3/C and a Staff Sergeant



took first and second place in the PFT completion leading their team to victory. The Physical Skills team was also victorious with a solid win in their event. Captain of the pistol team, proved once again that he is the "best in the west" with his pistol slinging skills by leading his team with a first place finish. The Drill team may not have won overall honors but they came out on top at the end of a grueling inspection.

The Beaver Battalion were the Overall Champions and showed dominating athleticism and commitment to success in Idaho and we are excited to see what NWN 2007 will bring!



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**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER  
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**[www.nrotc.oregonstate.edu](http://www.nrotc.oregonstate.edu)**