

# The Alumni Anchor

Academic Year 2007-08

September 2007



## NROTC UNIT

- CAPT Jimmer Sullivan
- CDR Patrick McNamara
- MAJ
- LT
- LT
- LT
- GySgt
- YNCS
- Supply Officer
- Fed Sec
- State Sec



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## News from Captain James R. Sullivan

**W**ow, this first year went fast! Between teaching Leadership and Management in the Fall, Ethics for the Military Leader in the Spring, and helping guide the unit throughout the year, this job has kept me busy and I've enjoyed every minute of it. This past year we commissioned 38 officers; fourteen aviators, six surface warriors, ten submariners, and eight Marines.

We continue to engender great support from the university none more evident than at this year's Spring commencement ceremony. It is a tradition here that near the end of the commencement ceremony, all new ROTC graduates (Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine) participate in a swearing in before the crowd. Each new officer removes their cap and gown to reveal a uniform on underneath. After a short explanation of the significance of the swearing in, the new officers are led through the oath of office by one of the ROTC Commanding Officers. This year was Navy's turn so I had the honor of explaining to the to the crowd how these graduates would be swearing an allegiance to the Constitution and would make decisions on how to protect our liberties and rights with all that they had learned from them;

their families, their teachers, and their friends. Upon completion of the oath the new officers received a rousing ovation from the estimated 20,000 people in attendance.

This past school year saw a number of enjoyable events. We competed in Northwest Navy in Seattle and came away with the overall trophy once again. We won three events and took second in almost every other event. That consistent excellence overcame some magnificent competition. Senior Mess Night and the Spring Ball provided excellent forums for decorum and humor. I haven't laughed so hard in some time. Joint Service Review was a superb spectacle and I highly encourage any of you that can attend next year to do so. Seeing all the Services marching smartly across the MU Quad in review is a sight to behold whether you've seen it before or not. Our students were also busy throughout the year helping others. We helped judge two NJROTC drill meets in Eastern Oregon. We provided support for local Memorial Day ceremonies and a significant number of funeral details throughout the state. And our students were highly active in a number of charity events including Relay for Life, Armed Forces Blood Draw, Benton County

Food Drive, and others. The students' willingness to get involved does them credit.

This coming year we are looking to fix up our obstacle course, portions of which have fallen into disrepair. I would like to thank Nelson Olf (class of '57) for his generous contribution toward this project. As with all organizations we are operating on a tight budget and some repairs or replacements have been put off until the appropriate funds are gathered. If you would like to contribute toward the unit you will find directions on this website under the "Alumni" tab. Additionally, if you would like to be included on our invitation list for cake-cuttings and commissionings please call us and provide your address to our Office Manager, at (541) 737-6289. We enjoy sharing these outstanding students with each of you.

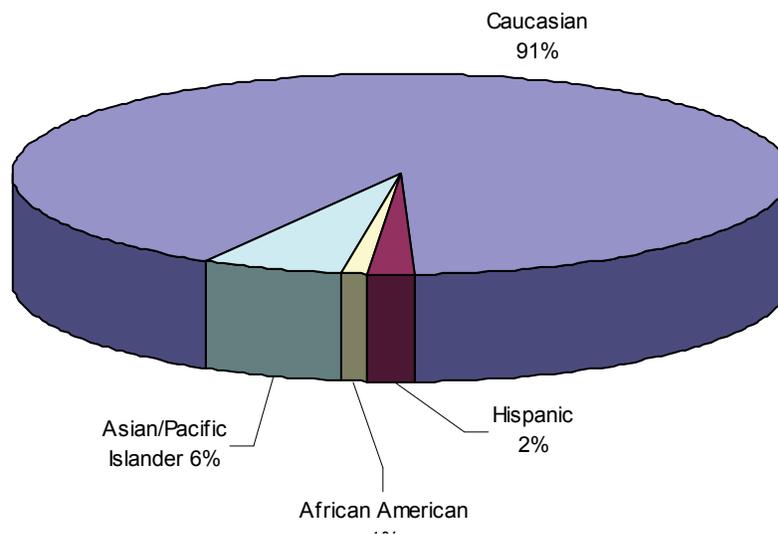
And as always if you are in the local area don't hesitate to come on by to tour the building and reminisce about old times especially if you're planning on attending Home Coming. We expect to have the unit open 1200-1500 on Saturday 27 Oct to allow you to walk through the spaces.



## XO Discusses Demographics

Greetings from the XO. I like to keep folks updated on the composition of the whole here at NROTC Oregon State, so here is an update on demographics. For the most part, the battalion demographics have remained fairly steady the past few years. We tend to be made up of white males from the Northwest U.S. We are not sure what to do with that info other than wonder "Hmmm...what does that mean?" Our grads are doing very well in their respective communities, so maybe "Hmmm..." is an appropriate neutral response. Here's the catch: we have plenty of room for more people in this NROTC unit and we know there are qualified students and leaders in Northwest High Schools who could come to Oregon State as a Scholarship or College program student and compete well, earn a commission and serve for years. Why bring up the topic of recruiting? Because you may be in a position of influence with a young man or woman and steer them our way. We are looking for the best qualified people and will do our part to shape them for leadership.

### *Ethnicity*



## 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*

12 October— Navy Cake Cut  
09 November—Marine Cake Cut  
10 November—Albany Veterans Day Parade  
29 Feb-01 March—Northwest Navy [OSU]  
02 May—Joint Service Review [OSU]  
14 June—Commissioning Ceremony  
15 June—OSU Commencement

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

## THE MARINE OFFICER INSTRUCTOR AND BATTALION ADVISOR



Another year has passed, and I am proud to report “the situation is well in hand” at Oregon State University. The Beaver Battalion continues to prove its reputation as the best in the west. That reputation is built on a “can do” attitude, and a commitment to excellence. Our midshipman, officer candidates, and Marines have exceeded all expectations. They planned and executed a full array of training events, social gatherings, and community service projects, all to rave reviews. A picture is worth a thousand words, so I encourage you to visit our website for a sampling of photos.

This year was particularly rewarding for our Marine Options and other members of Semper Fi. Our second annual Bulldog prep

weekend went off with great success. As the saying goes, “if it ain’t raining, it ain’t training” held true this year. A steady downpour accompanied our tactics, and small unit leadership training exercise in the McDonald –Dunn Forest. The rain however did not dampen the fighting spirit of our young men and women. Another highlight this Spring was the 10 mile forced march up and over “The Hill” on Oak Creek trail. While the training was tough, we completed it as a team, and each and every member came away with increased confidence and dedication to service with “boots on the ground.”

As in past eras of conflict, there are only three types of Marines. Those on their way to the war zone, those in the war zone, and those returning

from the war zone.

This is certainly true as we say farewell and Godspeed to GySgt, after 3 years as Oregon States’ AMOI. The GySgt will continue to fight the good fight, as he returns to the operating forces in his next assignment, with II Marine Expeditionary Force. His replacement, the new GySgt, has recently arrived on deck with dirt from Iraq still on his boots, after a tour with 3rd Marine Regiment. He brings a wealth of experience, and we are proud to welcome him to the Oregon State team.

Semper Fidelis,  
Major, USMC

## Angles and Dangles with LT

Well I am half way through my tour here at OSU and I can only hope that the second half is as great as the first was. I have had an exciting time watching the students develop into junior officers. This next year promises to be just as exciting with the class of 2008 taking the reigns and leading the Beaver Battalion.

We took a group of 23 students and date up to Seattle for the Group 9 Submarine Birthday Ball. We stayed at the BOQ in Bremerton and spent Friday morning at the Trident Training Facility on the Bangor base. The students were able to practice their damage control skills in the wet trainer.

We also introduced the students to ship control in the Dive and Drive. The casualty drills were fun until the trainer became stuck at a 45 degree up angle. The students

were able to test the metal in the Fire-arm Training Simulator. They ran several anti-terrorist scenarios and did extremely well. I want to thank all the personnel at Naval Base Kitsap for their support and allowing us the opportunity to train and attend the ball.

This past spring one OC was named Philomath’s volunteer firefighter of the quarter. I bring this up because he arranged a training day for the seniors at the fire department.

After two hours of classroom training we took twenty of the soon to be Ensigns to the fire house. They were able to dress out in full Fire Fighting Ensemble, use both 3 and 5 inch hoses and practice a blind-folded rescue. The highlight of the day was the smokehouse. In a small mobile home we fired up a smoke machine, turned

on the red lights and sent in the fire teams. It was a great exercise that really demonstrated to the students how chaotic it can get in a real casualty. I can not thank the Philomath Fire Department enough for their support.

From an Academic stand point there has been one large change: The requirement to take a Computer Science course has been dropped. From now on NROTC midshipmen will be required to take course in Regional studies, world culture, and/or world religions. This requirement is designed to expand the awareness and knowledge of world cultures and peoples in the future officers.

I wish fair winds and following seas to all the alumni. If you are ever in the area stop by and share sea story or two.

## Mach 3 with LT

This first year at Oregon State has been a real learning experience for me. As an OCS graduate, the NROTC world was always sort of an unknown, but checking in during the middle of the Fall term quickly changed that. Since that time, I have been learning the ins and outs of my job as Bravo Company advisor. I've been through my share of Naval Science classes and term counseling sessions, as well as 0600 General Military Training lectures and Performance Review Boards; all the things that make NROTC what it is, good or bad.

As the commissioning coordinator, I am pleased to announce that we have, or will have, commissioned a

total of 38 officers by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Out of those 38, 11 were designated as student Naval Aviators (9 Navy, 2 Marine), and 5 were designated as student Naval Flight Officers. I wish them the best as they begin their aviation careers. With any luck, they will someday find themselves in the Fleet flying the mighty P-3C Orion, or its successor the P-8 Multi-mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA).

The sailing program here is still alive and well. In May, I was certified as a Sail Training Instructor and was able to complete some training sessions before the end of

the Spring quarter. This year, 11 Navy option midshipmen got Skipper B qualified using our "Lasers" at the Fern Ridge Reservoir. There are also plans for a Staff sailing outing in late August...cameras will be on hand for this event

In closing, I would like to say how proud I am of the accomplishments and the dedication of the students here in NROTC program. I am looking forward to working with them over the next two years and seeing them join the other alumni already out in the Fleet.



## OSU NROTC's Upcoming Year —

Written by OC David Litz

The 2007-2008 school year is off to a running start. Even though we have not entered the Fall term yet, our Battalion Commander, Officer Candidate Traci Decker is already hard at work at making this year the best one yet. With plans for New Student Orientation, the Birthday Ball, and many other events in the fire, we are expecting that the experiences that are gained from our Midshipman will rival that of any other time in the OSU's Naval ROTC history.

Over the summer, the GySgt left us to be a Drill Instructor at Recruit Training in San Diego. To replace him, and fill the billet of Assistance Marine Officer Instructor is GySgt. GySgt became a Marine in 1995 serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment out of Camp Pendleton as a Radio Operator. Over the course of GySgt's career in the Marines, he has served in Korea, Japan, Thailand, Australia, Hawaii, Afghanistan, and most recently, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are all expecting great things from the new GySgt.

Battalion Commander Officer Candidate is very excited about New Student Orientation. This year, we have twenty one freshmen Midshipman, eight Officer Candidates, and one Marine. As always, NSO will be at Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth, Oregon. Under the guidance of the Major, GySgt, and the Battalion Commander, the candidates of this years NSO will be acclimated to military life though hours of Physical Training, Teambuilding, Close Order Drill, and classroom instruction. Once completed, our candidates will have just experienced the first step in become the fine Naval and Marine Corps Officers that OSU has turned out since our founding in 1945.

Preparations for the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball are also underway. On 20 October 2007, the 61<sup>st</sup> annual Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be held at OSU's Memorial Union. We are planning on having the LCDR, Chaplain Corps, as our Guest of Honor in hopes that his experiences will make us more rounded leaders. One OC is the Event Coordinate and he has been working hard with the other members of the Ball Committee to make this an event to remember.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the events that are being planned, but there isn't enough time to describe everything. For the alumni that visit, you will see the hustle and bustle that normally accompanies a very busy unit. With Dad's weekend, rebuilding the O-Course, and Northwest Navy preparation in the works, everyday is an adventure at Oregon State's NROTC.

# 2007 Summer Cruise... More Exciting Than a Day at the Movies



While this summer brought us some great action packed movies like Transformers with the heroic Autobots and the kid from the Disney Channel trying to save the world from the evil Decepticons and Live Free or Die Hard with Bruce Willis taking on an F-35 Joint Fighter single handedly; our highly motivated and skilled midshipman at Oregon State University were



out around the globe doing the real thing.

What separates the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps from the other armed service's R.O.T.C units is the summer cruise program. The summer cruise program continues to prepare, educate, train, and help our midshipman understand all aspects of the Navy and Marine Corps team. Some midshipman come to our program knowing

what community the want to pursue, others are undecided. The summer cruise program is a great tool to help those that are undecided to choose a career path. The program also allows those midshipmen that have chosen a community the opportunity to ride on a combat-ant ship, submarine, conduct a field exercise or possibly get some stick time in a fighter jet.



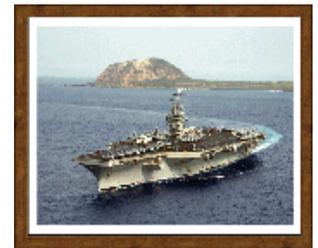
During the summer of 2007 we had 23 midshipman attend COTRAMID in San Diego, Ca, 3 midshipman attend submarine cruises, 9 midshipman attend



surface cruises, 1 midshipman attend an aviation tour, 2 mid-

shipman attend Mountain Warfare, and 3 midshipman attended Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Our midshipman embarked their summer cruises from a variety of locations, ranging from the Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Japan, Australia, New Caledonia, Singapore, Pearl Harbor, Quantico, Everett, San Diego, and Reno.

During COTRAMID two of our midshipman received Certificates of Commendation for their superior performance. Congratulations to two Midshipman for an OUTSTANDING job to our entire midshipman summer cruise participants here at Oregon State University N.R.O.T.C. You continue to make your past OSU Alumni proud and continue to set the high standard for your future alumni.



U.S. Navy/Donna D. D.

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