New Battalion Commander:
Staff Sergeant Sims

By MIDN 3/C Roberts

-SSgt Sims, what kind of plans do you have for the Battalion for this semester?

Having spent 2 ½ years here, certain things about status quo needed to be changed, like the lack of standardization: too often things change between semesters. Also accountability, many problems we face as a student battalion could easily be rectified by properly utilizing small unit leaders.

-What is the Commissioning Roadmap, and how does it apply to people?

Overall training and development is my focus. The CR should help in multiple ways, but mainly it allows battalion members to see what’s required versus what’s highly recommended in order to make them individually competitive among their peers. The desired end state for the commissioning roadmap is to produce highly qualified basically trained officers.

-What type of success are you hoping to have as the Battalion Commander?

In May, if I can look back and see that a positive impact has been made on at least one individual, that success will be because of the leadership and initiative of my Battalion Staff and Company Commanders, and that’s enough.

Giving Back to Auburn

By MIDN 4/C Gibbons

Volunteering is a way for people to give back to their community. Throughout the spring semester, each company in the battalion will be doing some sort of volunteer project. They range from extending a helping hand at the Special Olympics to picking up trash to make Auburn a cleaner place.

In either March or April, Alpha Company is planning on helping out with the Special Olympics. According to Officer Candidate Lewis, what he wants Alpha Company to get out of this experience is “to get a sense of belonging to a community and helping the community at the same time. I want the company to feel that they have accomplished something worth-while.”… continued on page 4
A Spirit That is Excellent

By MIDN 2/C Dillman

One of the beloved office ladies at the Auburn University NROTC unit has finally been recognized for her selfless work in and out of the office. Mrs. Kythia Stofer, more affectionately known as Ms. Kat, was selected in August 2009 as a recipient of the “Spirit of Excellence Award.” She is one of only four university faculty members across campus to receive this prestigious honor in August. According to Ms. Kat, “the award was a complete surprise.” Before Commander Jones left last spring he nominated Ms. Kat. She had already been nominated twice during her work in graduate school, but the third time seems to be the charm. “[NROTC] is the best job I ever had,” said Ms. Kat; it certainly beats graduate work.

This award is more than a piece of paper; it comes with many tangible benefits. After being pictured in the AU Report, Ms. Kat also received a gift certificate to the University Bookstore, and two home game football tickets. During the game she and the other recipients will be recognized on the 50-yard line in front of a packed Jordan Hare Stadium. This award is a token of Auburn’s appreciation for everything that Ms. Kat does, performing “beyond the call of duty” to improve service, quality, and the unit’s image” according to award criteria. Auburn University NROTC is very proud of Ms. Kat and grateful for her outstanding performance. It is wonderful that the university finally recognizes her contributions to Auburn University and this NROTC unit.

USS Independence Commissioning

By MIDN 2/C Dillman

Fifteen midshipmen from Auburn University NROTC and Tuskegee University braved an early morning and nasty weather January 16 to serve as ushers for the commissioning of the newest of Littoral Class of aircraft carriers, the USS Independence.

According to www.navy.mil the USS Independence is a “fast, agile ship that demonstrates the latest in naval warfighting technology. The ship is specifically designed to defeat ‘anti-access’ threats in shallow, coastal water regions.” A motivating 19 gun salute during the January 16th ceremony impressed the midshipmen.

The red, white, and blue streamers and flags stood out against the battleship gray of the new carrier as sheets of rain poured down all day. After serving as ushers several midshipmen got to meet the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gary Roughead. Along with the upper echelons of the US Navy Command many foreign officers attended the ceremony. Officers from Australia, the United Kingdom, India, Bahrain, and other countries came to pay their respects to the newly commissioned ship. It was an honor for the midshipmen to speak to these officers, and it was also an opportunity to demonstrate Auburn Navy ROTC interest and activity in the community. Also in attendance was a crewmember of the USS Independence that served during World War II. MIDN 3/C Matthew Harley recalled, “There were so many stars on generals and foreign officers’ uniforms… it was also very interesting to see a crew member from the old USS Independence, he was wearing his vintage bell bottom dress uniform from the 1940s.”

Admiral Roughead meets with AUNROTC and TUNROTC midshipmen
On Your Horizon

By MIDN 3/C Gibbons

February 11 - 14:
Auburn University NROTC Drill Team travels to Tulane University for national drill competition. If you’re interested in joining the drill team next year contact MIDN 2/C Young.

February 16:
- The Mariners’ next guest lecturer is retired Marine Corps Colonel Camp. He will be speaking about Iwo Jima.
- Make sure you are prepared for the first mock PRT... aim for above an Excellent!

February 25:
- Hydrate hydrate! Please give blood at the next Red Cross blood drive.

February 27:
- Charlie Company Training Day at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, GA.

March 4:
- Crew of the USS Alabama Ballistic Missile Submarine comes to Auburn for a brief about the SSBN community.

March 6:
- NJROTC drill meet. Sign up in the wardroom for a job you would like to volunteer in.

March 15 - 19:
- SPRING BREAK!

Stay informed of upcoming events! The POW includes a 60-day event calendar.

Tuskegee NROTC Pushes Recruiting

By MIDN 4/C Ford

On January 22, Sergeants Ramirez and Melton, along with Corporal Marion from RS Montgomery worked together with Tuskegee University’s new NROTC program to host an eye-catching exposition aimed at increasing awareness of TU NROTC, the Marine Corps, and the Amphibious Warrior Mud Run.

Around 300 college students on campus came by to see a blow-up ten foot tall Marine Corps drill instructor and a Hummer decorated with as much motivated décor as possible. Major Dyal came out to help grill hotdogs and hamburgers for all the interested students on “the yard.” Many students participated in a friendly competition in pull-ups and flexed arm hang. Males completed five to 20 pull-ups to claim a reward while females executed a flexed arm hang for ten to 70 seconds. Everyone enjoyed the Marine Corps key chains, lanyards, and other prizes which were given to outstanding performers. Even those who didn’t win anything enjoyed the event and encouraged other participants to boost camaraderie.

All participants were asked to fill out a recruiting card beforehand, and by the end of the day, a stack had accumulated. Interested students got to talk individually with recruiters and midshipmen already in the unit about the Marine Corps and the Tuskegee NROTC program. Current midshipmen encouraged the students to participate in the upcoming Mud Run event on April 3.

Blue-Water Experience from Magnolia Avenue

By MIDN 2/C Dillman

On January 26 the Surface Warfare lab rode to the Auburn City Fire Department. The midshipmen toured the facility and tried on and operated SCBA emergency breathing apparatuses. The experience closely related to blue-water Damage Control because the same SCBAs are used aboard US Navy ships.

MIDN 4/C Bennet maxes out pull-ups

MIDN 2/C Allsup tries on a SCBA mask
Naval Student of the Term

By MIDN 3/C Roberts

-MIDN Dlugos, How did it feel to be named Naval Student of the Term?

I was honored to be named Naval Student of the Term. The other nominees were excellent and so to be chosen from such a small group made me feel like I was being recognized for a job well done which is always good.

-Do you ever look into a mirror and say: “I’m the man?”

Haha. No, I don’t do that ever. I try my best to not let things like this go to my head like it does for more cocky people. I just try to continue on how I was before and make any improvements I can to how I conduct myself.

-What will you look to do in the future to continue this trend of success?

I plan to continue upholding the highest standards of the United States Marine Corps and keep my integrity intact in all things that I do.

-How do you feel being a Marine Option affects how you conducted yourself in being selected for Sailor of the Term?

All Marines should hold themselves to a standard far higher than everyone else. Even thought I haven’t yet earned that revered title, I still hold myself to the same standards as I prepare myself, both mentally and physically, undertake the necessary training and education to earn the respected title of a United States Marine.

Giving Back

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On April 3, Charlie Company is putting on an “Amphibious Warrior Mud Run.” This event is a fundraiser in effort to benefit the “Wounded Warrior Project.” According to Staff Sergeant Carlisle, “The goal for the company is to volunteer their time and efforts in order to provide a valuable service to the community. . . The Wounded Warrior Project provides assistance to wounded and disabled veterans in order to allow them an opportunity to live a somewhat normal life following injuries sustained in combat.” Carlisle also stated that members of Charlie Company have already devoted their time to advertise and market the race.

Before Spring break, Bravo company plans on going to Mill Creek at Auburn to remove trash, weeds and other waste. Officer Candidate Mosley stated that each member of Bravo will volunteer two to three hours of their time and that they will “have fun while doing it.”

Delta Company does not have enough members in the company to conduct their own service project. However, they will be integrating with other companies to extend a helping hand to their community. Battalion XO George said that staff company might follow Delta company’s example and help the other companies with their volunteer projects.

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and it can also be a lot of fun. George stated that he believes that volunteering is a great way on setting the example. Over spring semester, one will be able to see what kind of example Auburn University Naval ROTC will set by volunteering.