

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

101. HISTORY. The Department of the Navy (DON), realizing that a reserve of qualified officers would be needed in an unforeseen emergency, established the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) in 1926. Units were organized at the University of California, Northwestern University, University of Washington, Harvard University, Yale University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. The NROTC Program has been expanded since then until it now includes 66 NROTC units. The Unit at Auburn University was established in 1946.

102. TRADITIONS. Our Unit has established a fine reputation in the Fleet through our graduates, who have consistently maintained a high standard of performance on summer cruises and on active duty. Here on campus, the Midshipmen (MIDN), Officer Candidates (OCs), and Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) students are conspicuous because of their bearing, conduct, and military courtesy. The NROTC Unit, the U.S. Navy (USN), and the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) will be judged by your actions and manner. You must set a good example.

103. MISSION, GOALS, THE CONCEPT OF HONOR, AND THE HONOR CODE

a. Mission. To develop NROTC students mentally, morally, and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty. To commission college graduates as Naval Officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the Naval Service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character so as to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.

b. Goals. The primary goals of the NROTC Program are to provide NROTC students with:

(1) An understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of Naval Science (NAVS);

(2) A basic understanding of associated professional knowledge;

(3) An appreciation of the requirements for national security;

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(4) A strong sense of personal integrity, honor, and individual responsibility;

(5) An educational background which will allow the NROTC students to successfully undertake advanced/continuing education in a field of application of interest to the Naval service in later periods of their careers;

(6) A high state of physical fitness for the purposes of health and performance.

c. The Concept of Honor and the Honor Code

(1) The Concept of Honor. By definition, honor is a sense of right and wrong; adherence to action or principles considered right; integrity. The honor or integrity of the Naval Officer must be above reproach. He/she must maintain unswerving commitment to doing the right thing, as well as avoiding any appearance of impropriety. An officer's word must be his/her bond. In combat, the Naval Officer is responsible for America's most precious resource, human life. He/she must be absolutely trustworthy in all actions if he/she is to be trusted in combat. For all the intrinsic excellence of our technology, experience demonstrates that its successful employment in battle continues to depend upon the integrity, courage, commitment, and professional excellence of those called upon to bring it to bear in defense of freedom. With ruthless efficiency and finality, the awesome violence of modern warfare distinguishes forces filled with these attributes from those rendered hollow by their absence. Unlike previous conflicts in our history, technology no longer permits us the luxury of awaiting the first battle to determine whether our forces are ready. The pace of conflict will afford us little if any chance to profit from our mistakes.

(2) Military systems which often operate under extreme duress are built on a foundation of absolute trust and fidelity. NROTC students do not learn that when they get to the fleet; they take it to the fleet.

(3) The Honor Code. For the NROTC student, those obligations are succinctly stated in the following Honor Code: A Midshipman or Officer Candidate does not lie, cheat, or steal.

104. CORE VALUES.

a. The Concept of Core Values. Throughout its history, the Navy has successfully met all its challenges. America's naval service began during the American Revolution, when, on Oct. 13, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized a few small ships, creating the Continental Navy. Esek Hopkins was appointed commander in chief and 22 officers were commissioned, including John Paul Jones. From those early days of naval service, certain bedrock principles or core values have carried on to today. They consist of three basic principles.

(1) **Honor:** "I will bear true faith and allegiance ..." Accordingly, we will: Conduct ourselves in the highest ethical manner in all relationships with peers, superiors and subordinates; Be honest and truthful in our dealings with each other, and with those outside the Navy; Be willing to make honest recommendations and accept those of junior personnel; Encourage new ideas and deliver the bad news, even when it is unpopular; Abide by an uncompromising code of integrity, taking responsibility for our actions and keeping our word; Fulfill or exceed our legal and ethical responsibilities in our public and personal lives twenty-four hours a day. Illegal or improper behavior or even the appearance of such behavior will not be tolerated. We are accountable for our professional and personal behavior. We will be mindful of the privilege to serve our fellow Americans.

(2) **Courage:** "I will support and defend ..." Accordingly, we will have: courage to meet the demands of our profession and the mission when it is hazardous, demanding, or otherwise difficult; Make decisions in the best interest of the navy and the nation, without regard to personal consequences; Meet these challenges while adhering to a higher standard of personal conduct and decency; Be loyal to our nation, ensuring the resources entrusted to us are used in an honest, careful, and efficient way. Courage is the value that gives us the moral and mental strength to do what is right, even in the face of personal or professional adversity.

(3) **Commitment:** "I will obey the orders ..." Accordingly, we will: Demand respect up and down the chain of command; Care for the safety, professional, personal and spiritual well-being of our people; Show respect toward all people without regard to race, religion, or gender; Treat each individual with human dignity; Be committed to positive change

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and constant improvement; Exhibit the highest degree of moral character, technical excellence, quality and competence in what we have been trained to do. The day-to-day duty of every Navy man and woman is to work together as a team to improve the quality of our work, our people and ourselves.

b. These are the core values of the Navy-Marine Corps Team.

105. INTENT OF THE NROTC PROGRAM. The intent of the NROTC Program is to act as an officer accession program into the USN or USMC.

a. Qualification of NROTC students for appointment as Ensigns in the USN or Second Lieutenants in the USMC.

b. Preparation of MECEP students and Marine Option MIDN for OCS.

c. Increased dissemination of knowledge concerning the USN and USMC and their purposes, ideals, and achievements thereby gaining and holding increased public interest in the maintenance of adequate naval preparedness.

106. NROTC STUDENT CLASSIFICATION. NROTC students are classified by their standing in the NROTC Program. The number of college credits completed does not bear upon their NROTC standing. Classification is as follows:

a. Basic Course

(1) Freshman (Fourth Class (4/C)): First Year MIDN who is enrolled in the first year Naval Science (NAVS) academic courses and laboratory periods. An OC is classified as a freshman when the student has 7 or more semesters till graduation, at the end of Spring Semester.

(2) Sophomore (Third Class (3/C)): Second Year MIDN who has completed the first year NAVS academic courses or is enrolled in the second year NAVS academic courses and laboratory periods. A Scholarship Program MIDN incurs obligated service upon initial acceptance of Program benefits at the beginning of the second year. An OC is classified as a sophomore when the student has 5 to 6 semesters till graduation, at the end of Spring Semester.

b. Advanced Course

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(1) Junior (Second Class (2/C)): Third Year MIDN who has completed the second year NAVS academic courses or is enrolled in the third year NAVS academic courses and laboratory periods. A College Program MIDN must sign an enlistment contract upon beginning the Advanced Course, incurs an obligated service at that time, and must be accepted into Advanced Standing by NETC. An OC is classified as a Junior when the student has 3 to 4 semesters till graduation, at the end of Spring Semester.

(2) Senior (First Class (1/C)): Fourth Year MIDN who has completed the third year NAVS academic courses or is enrolled in the fourth year NAVS academic courses and laboratory periods. An OC is classified as a senior when the student has 2 or fewer semesters till graduation, at the end of Spring Semester.

107. TYPES OF NROTC STUDENTS

a. Four-Year Scholarship Program. Four-Year Scholarship MIDN are selected by national competition and are appointed MIDN, U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR) or U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (USMC). They may be granted the compensation and benefits authorized by law during the Basic Course (not to exceed 20 months) and the Advanced Course (not to exceed 20 months) for a total period not exceeding four years (40 months). During this period of college, the USN pays for tuition, required fees, and textbooks and provides uniforms and a subsistence allowance as prescribed by law. The NROTC Scholarship Program is maintained to educate and train qualified young men and women for a career as commissioned officers in the USN or USMC. All MIDN will receive commissions into the USN or USMC. Only men and women reasonably disposed to making the USN or USMC a career should enter the NROTC Scholarship Program. They will serve at the pleasure of the President as officers in the USN or the USMC. Four-Year Scholarship MIDN serve three periods of summer training at Naval Bases, Naval Air Stations, at sea, and, in the case of Senior Marine Option MIDN, at the Marine Corps Officers Candidate School (MCOCS), Quantico, Virginia. MIDN achieving scholarship status after their 4/C year serve fewer summer training periods depending upon the time at which they receive their Scholarships. At present, the minimum service obligation for Scholarship MIDN is four years from the date of commissioning; however, this obligation varies with warfare specialty. MIDN should consult with their NROTC Unit advisors for full details.

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b. Four-Year College Program.

(1) Four-Year College Program MIDN are selected by the PNS from among those students applying for enrollment in the NROTC Unit. During the first two years in the program while in the Basic Course, College Program MIDN have the status of civilians who have entered into a contract with the USN. During this period, they may hold concurrent status in either the USN or the USMC. Upon selection for enrollment in the Advanced Course by the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) Advanced Standing Board, College Program MIDN enlist in either the USNR or the USMCR under the provisions of Sections 511 and 2104, Title 10, United States Code. The College Program MIDN, upon completion and graduation of NAVS requirements, is commissioned an Ensign in the USN or a Second Lieutenant in the USMC. The College Program exists for those college students who wish to be available to serve their country for a specified period as USN or USMC Officers. These MIDN agree to complete all basic NAVS courses, complete one summer training period, and enlist in the USNR or USMCR prior to commencement of the Advanced Course. In return, the USN provides uniforms, NAVS textbooks, and a subsistence allowance during the junior and senior years for a maximum of 20 months. The primary objective of the College Program is to train MIDN for eventual service in the Unrestricted Line. College Program MIDN who are found not qualified for the Unrestricted Line during their pre-commissioning physical exam may be offered a commission as Ensign, USN, with a Restricted Line or Staff Corps designator. The offer of such commissions depends on the needs of the Navy and the qualifications of the individuals concerned.

(2) Applicants for the College Program who were former MIDN or members of any other officer candidate program may be enrolled only with the specific approval of NETC. Their active duty obligation, if enrolled, will be three years if they have received one year or less of subsidized education. If they have received more than one year of subsidized education, they will have an active duty obligation of four years.

(3) College Program MIDN are required to serve an at-sea training period (USMC training in the case of Marine Option MIDN) between their junior and senior years. College Program MIDN are required to maintain the same educational and physical standards required of the Scholarship MIDN. Upon graduation, College Program MIDN are commissioned in the USN or USMC and placed on active duty for three years. Marine

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Option College Program MIDN incur a three and one half year active duty obligation.

(4) The Professor of Naval Science (PNS) is authorized each year to nominate outstanding College Program MIDN for possible selection by a NETC Controlled Scholarship Board for Scholarship status.

c. Two-Year Scholarship Program. Students are selected through national competition from applicants with advanced college standing having at least two years of academic study remaining for a baccalaureate degree. They are appointed MIDN, USNR, upon reporting for enrollment in the Advanced Course. They qualify for enrollment in the Advanced Course at the Unit by successfully completing summer training as prescribed by NETC. The summer course of instruction, called the Naval Science Institute (NSI), provides the NAVS and Drill equivalent of the NROTC Basic Course. Those enrolled as Two-Year Scholarship Program MIDN have the same privileges and obligations as those enrolled in the Four-Year Scholarship Program. All Two-Year Scholarship applications are submitted through the NROTC Unit.

d. Two-Year College Program. Two-Year College Program MIDN are selected by a Board, convened by NETC, from applicants with advanced college standing having at least two years of academic study remaining for a baccalaureate degree. They qualify for enrollment in the Advanced Course at the Unit by successfully completing summer training as prescribed by NETC. The summer course of instruction, called NSI, provides the NAVS and Drill equivalent of the Basic Course. Those enrolled in the Two-Year College Program have the same privileges and obligations as those enrolled in the Four-Year College Program.

(1) Selection for the Two-Year College Program is made on a nationwide basis from nominations submitted by the PNS, at each NROTC institution. Those selected must successfully complete NSI prior to enrollment in the NROTC Advanced Course.

(2) Attendance at NSI may be waived for NAVS students who have successfully completed the first two years of NAVS, including NAVS Drill, as NAVS students.

(3) Two-Year College Program MIDN may be nominated for the NETC Controlled Scholarship Program based upon meritorious performance at NSI. In these cases, a Selection Board, convened by NETC, will use criteria similar to those for NETC

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Controlled Scholarship selection from the Four-Year College Program.

e. NETC Controlled Scholarships. A College Program MIDN may be appointed as MIDN, USNR (Scholarship Program), when selected for a NETC Controlled Scholarship. Included are Two-Year College Program MIDN who may be recommended for Scholarship status resulting from outstanding performance at NSI and subsequently commence the Advanced Course. College Program MIDN selected for the Scholarship Program will be required to obtain their degrees and commissions in the same time they would normally have taken had they remained in their original status. NETC provides annual criteria and guidelines for making nominations for such Scholarship appointments. NETC Controlled Scholarships are awarded by NETC based upon USN and USMC Selection Board recommendations. Nominations are submitted by the PNS to NETC for Navy Option Scholarships and via NETC to Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps (CMC) for Marine Option Scholarships.

f. The Tweeddale Scholarship Program. The purpose of this Program is to provide the PNS with the ability to offer NROTC Scholarships to outstanding college students who have not previously been affiliated with the NROTC or other accession program. The target college student population is restricted to students who will help meet specific NROTC special management interest objectives as defined by the Department of the Navy. Auburn University is typically authorized one Navy and one Marine scholarship annually.

g. The Four-Year Nurse Corps Scholarship Program. This program was established to provide the Nurse Corps with officers from the NROTC. Students are selected through national competition from applicants who have been admitted to an NROTC-affiliated university with a National League for Nursing accredited or state approved Baccalaureate Degree nursing program. These scholarships are not transferable to regular NROTC scholarships leading to an Unrestricted Line commission.

h. Naval Science Students

(1) Civilians may enroll in NAVS courses because of interest in the subject or as candidates for enrollment in the College Program. These civilians are known as Naval Science students. Since these students are not members of the NROTC, they will not be eligible, except as specifically authorized by NETC, to participate in NROTC summer training, be issued

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uniforms, have access to classified information, or receive any financial benefits. They are not considered MIDN and may withdraw from the NAVS course at any time.

(2) Naval Science students who are eligible in all respects may be enrolled in the College Program and be credited with NROTC requirements previously completed. However, at least one-year participation as an enrolled member of the College or Scholarship Program is required prior to commissioning.

(3) Naval Science students may, with the permission of the PNS, attend Battalion Drills.

(4) A MIDN disenrolled from the NROTC may enroll as a Naval Science student.

(5) Naval Science students have no commitments to the government and receive no benefits other than the instruction.

(6) Naval Science students receive NAVS textbooks, free of charge, as long as they are available and are returned when the course is complete.

i. NROTC applicants who have been nominated for an NROTC Scholarship and subsequently enroll in a service academy, a state maritime academy, an AROTC or AFROTC program, or any other officer training program are not eligible for the scholarship. College Program candidates who have previously enrolled in a service academy, a state maritime academy, an AROTC or AFROTC program, or any other officer training program may not enroll in the NROTC College Program without specific written approval from NETC. Letter requests for enrollments with comments and recommendations of the PNS must be submitted in each case.

j. No NROTC Scholarship or College Program student may be a member of any Armed Forces Reserve component other than the USN or USMC. All MIDN must be released from their present enlistment contract and terminate their affiliation with drilling reserve units except for College Program MIDN in the Basic Course. College Program MIDN in the Basic Course may continue their affiliation with a drilling reserve unit until eligible for benefits upon enrollment in Advanced Standing. Members of Reserve components other than USNR or USMCR must be discharged from their present enlistment contract and enlisted under the provisions of the NROTC Program to facilitate Scholarship or College Program (Advanced Course) enrollment.

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They may be enrolled as Naval Science students pending discharge from such status. MIDN appointed from enlisted status shall be entitled only to NROTC related compensation and entitlements that are normally provided to other MIDN. The period of time served in the NROTC does not count in computing longevity, retirement eligibility, retired pay, or for any purpose in computing the length of service of any officer of the Armed Forces. NROTC students in Advanced Standing may not simultaneously be a member of another officer accession program as set forth in Section 600, Title 10, United States Code; e.g., USMC Platoon Leaders Class (PLC), Merchant Marine/USN MIDN Program, Aviation Reserve OC Program, etc.

k. Any person receiving compensation from the Veterans Administration (VA) for disability incurred in the USN or military service of the United States or who has any claim pending under the VA on account of such disability is not eligible for enrollment in the NROTC. Veterans who have previously filed such claims may become eligible for enrollment if (1) the VA has disallowed the claim or (2) the veteran has withdrawn his/her claim.

108. TRANSFERS

a. Transfer between Options. Transfers for Scholarship and College Program students between Navy and Marine Corps Options are authorized only when approved by NETC and CMC. For planning purposes, the Marine Corps selection board meets only in March of each year.

b. A MIDN may request transfer from the Auburn NROTC Unit to another unit if accepted by the other unit's host institution and other unit and the transfer is approved by NETC. Normally NETC will not take favorable action upon such a request unless it has been favorably recommended by the PNS of each school and is in the best interest of the student and the USN. NETC will view unfavorably those requests for transfer for continuations of undergraduate studies when such transfers are motivated by reason of personal convenience or desires.

c. Appointment of MIDN to Service Academies. Any MIDN enrolled in the NROTC who is selected for appointment to one of the Service Academies or the U.S. Merchant Maritime Academy will, upon actual entrance into the Academy, be released from his/her NROTC contract with SECNAV.

d. Entry of MIDN into the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA). MIDN may seek appointments to the USNA under any existing procedure

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on the same basis as if they were not enrolled in the NROTC. MIDN are also eligible to compete for one of the ten appointments available to members of the NROTC. The PNS may annually nominate every January, three MIDN for appointment to the USNA.

109. MARINE ENLISTED COMMISSIONING EDUCATION PROGRAM (MECEP). MECEPs are USMC enlisted personnel who have been selected by the USMC to pursue a baccalaureate degree. MECEPs must also complete the Junior and Senior level NAVS courses for Marine Option MIDN. MECEPs are members of the BN. MECEPs receive USMC commissions upon graduation.

110. SEAMAN TO ADMIRAL-21 (STA-21) PROGRAM. STA-21 Officer Candidates (OC) are USN enlisted personnel who have been selected by NETC to complete a thirty-six month college program leading to a baccalaureate degree. STA-21 OCs attend the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in Newport, RI to complete a portion of their NAVS curriculum prior to reporting to the NROTC Unit. The NAVS curriculum must be completed prior to receiving a commission. STA-21 OCs receive USN commissions upon graduation.

111. ACTIVE ENLISTED SERVICE OBLIGATION

a. Scholarship MIDN who, after commencing the 3/C year either (1) refuse to accept their commissions, (2) are determined to have willfully violated their agreements, or (3) who, by their conduct or inaptitude, show themselves unsuitable for commissioning will normally be disenrolled, and be required to repay the government all scholarship funds received or placed on active duty in an enlisted status. If placed on active duty the MIDN will be required to serve two years.

b. Scholarship MIDN who are disenrolled either voluntarily or involuntarily during their 4/C year in the NROTC do not incur an active duty enlisted obligation.

c. If disenrolled, scholarship midshipmen who were discharged from an active duty enlisted status to accept a scholarship will be required to repay the government for all scholarship funds received or returned to active duty in their former enlisted status. Their service commitment will be determined by the USN but may not exceed four years.

d. College Program MIDN who, by their conduct or inaptitude, show themselves unsuitable for commissioning are

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not currently ordered to active enlisted service involuntarily.

e. OCs and MECEPs who, by their conduct, inaptitude, or inability to meet their program requirements, are disenrolled, are returned to active duty in their former enlisted status.