

CHAPTER 9

OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND AWARDS

901. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

a. NROTC students are offered a number of career options in the USN or USMC. The NROTC is primarily an Unrestricted Line Officer commissioning program. These options include Naval Aviation (Pilot or Naval Flight Officer, USN or USMC), Nuclear Power (Surface or Submarine), Surface Warfare, Special Warfare (SEALs), and USMC. Midshipmen and Officer Candidates who are Not Physically Qualified (NPQ) for the Unrestricted Line but are qualified for commissioning, may have options in the Restricted Line/Staff Corps communities. These options include Aviation Maintenance Duty Officer, Cryptology, Naval Intelligence, Oceanography, Fleet Support Engineering Duty, Supply Corps, and Civil Engineering Corps. The major difference between the Restricted and Unrestricted Line is that Unrestricted Line Officers are eligible for command at sea and command of shore stations. Presentations on the eligibility requirements for these fields will be given throughout the four year program. The members of the staff encourage interested MIDN and OCs to inquire about their specialties.

b. Service selection requests are submitted during the senior year. MIDN and OCs are notified of initial assignment by the BUPERS normally at the beginning of their last semester at Auburn.

902. COMMANDING OFFICER'S SUGGESTION BOX. The CO's Suggestion Box should be used to respectfully make suggestions for improvement of the unit or to ask substantive questions of the CO. Suggestions/questions should be submitted in proper correspondence format and can be submitted on any topic. Responses will be published to the BN by posting on the BN and Classroom Bulletin Boards or through announced Captain's Call. Suggestions may be made anonymously, but the inclusion of your name does allow for a personal answer.

903. ENLISTED RESERVE STATUS.

a. Under the terms for Scholarship Program Students, MIDN must enlist in the USN or USMC. In the event they do not meet the terms of their contracts, they may be ordered to active duty in an enlisted status by the SECNAV for a period not to exceed four years.

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b. College Program Students are required to in the USN or USMC for a period of eight years prior to becoming eligible for payment of subsistence (normally at the beginning of the junior year). Students already serving under USN and USMC enlistments will be discharged and reenlisted under Public Law 88.

c. Time spent in the reserve status while enrolled in the NROTC cannot be computed for length of service for a commissioned officer or for the accrual of longevity for pay purposes.

d. At the time of commissioning, MIDN are discharged from the enlisted reserve obligation.

904. THE NROTC INTRAMURAL PROGRAM. The USN and USMC strongly encourage all NROTC students to maintain a high state of physical readiness. With this in mind, the NROTC Unit, through Auburn University, offers a varied and active athletic program. The NROTC annually sponsors flag football, bowling, badminton, volleyball, basketball, softball, and soccer teams in the University's Intramural Program. Intramural competitions for other sports are also available through the university; however, participation by unit members is on an individual basis. All NROTC students are eligible to play for the unit. Intra-BN athletic competition is also encouraged.

905. UNIT WEIGHT ROOM. The unit maintains the Weight Room strictly for NROTC students, Mariners, and staff. It is not shared with AROTC or AFROTC. The Two-Man rule will apply for the use of the Weight Room (a partner is required in the weight room at all times). All members are encouraged to take advantage of this fine facility (contracted by Semper Fi) to enhance their physical fitness. Your student ID card serves as an electronic key to access the facility.

906. INDOCTRINATION FIELD TRIPS. When sufficient interest is displayed during each academic year, indoctrination field trips are arranged to visit USN and USMC facilities. The visits are normally two to three days in duration. Because College Program MIDN may not have the opportunity to participate in summer training cruises and would therefore benefit more from the indoctrination field trips, they are given priority of participate in such trips. No-cost orders (i.e., orders that do not cost the government) are issued to those attending, unless special funding is provided by NETC.

907. SUMMER CRUISE. Summer training is a requirement of the NROTC; it furnishes MIDN with the opportunity to gain experience

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in the practical application of their Naval Science studies. The requirements differ according to the status of the MIDN. Training periods are generally four weeks in duration.

a. Scholarship Midshipmen

(1) MIDN 3/C Summer Training. Career Orientation and Training of Midshipmen (CORTRAMID), provides an introduction to the specialized designators that a MIDN may select upon commissioning. CORTRAMID is normally completed between the freshman and sophomore years. Scholarship MIDN report to various shore stations for introduction into aviation, submarine, surface, and USMC operations.

(2) MIDN 2/C Summer Training. This is a training period aboard a fleet ship normally made between the sophomore and junior years. Scholarship MIDN are instructed in and assigned to perform the duties of enlisted personnel assigned to ships. MIDN are berthed and messed in enlisted facilities and integrated with the crew. They are responsible for the cleanliness of their spaces and are utilized in performing ship's work.

(3) MIDN 1/C Cruise

(a) MIDN 1/C At-Sea Training (Navy Option). This a training period aboard a fleet ship made between the junior and senior years. Scholarship and Advanced Standing MIDN are assigned to fleet ships and are trained in the performance of various duties of junior officers. They are given every opportunity to assume the duties and responsibilities of junior officers in as many departments as practicable during the cruise. They are afforded essential wardroom indoctrination and training by berthing in officers country and messing in the wardroom to the maximum extent practicable.

(b) Foreign Exchange and Training of Midshipmen (FOREXTRAMID). Each summer a limited number of MIDN 1/C (Navy Option) are given the opportunity to serve aboard foreign vessels while fulfilling their 1/C cruise requirements. The availability of such billets is announced to the Second Class MIDN during the fall of each year. Interested MIDN may submit their applications to their Company Advisor. Fluency in a foreign language is preferred but not essential for all cruises.

(c) Aviation Cruises. Each summer a limited number of MIDN 1/C (Navy Option) are given the opportunity to serve on an Aviation CV or a VP Cruise. The availability of such cruises are announced to MIDN 2/C during the fall of each year. MIDN

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interested in a VP Cruise may submit their applications to their Company Advisor. A strong interest in Naval Aviation upon commissioning is preferred. VP cruises are only open to Four-Year Scholarship MIDN.

(d) Mini Buds Orientation. Each summer a limited number of MIDN 1/C (Navy Option) are given the opportunity to participate in an orientation course for the Special Warfare Program. The availability of this program is announced to MIDN 2/C during the fall of each year. MIDN interested in a Mini BUDS Course may submit their applications to their Company Advisor. A strong interest in Special Warfare (SPECWAR) upon commissioning is required.

b. College Program Summer Training. Each Navy Option College Program MIDN with advanced standing is required to participate in one summer-at-sea training period. It is identical in all respects to the 1/C summer training cruise made by Scholarship MIDN.

c. Marine Option Summer Training. Except for 1/C cruise, Marine Option MIDN participate in the same summer training as their Navy peers unless alternate Marine cruises are available. The summer between their junior and senior year, Marine Option MIDN, both Scholarship and College Program Advanced Standing, attend the "Bulldog" course at OCS located at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center (MCCDC), Quantico, Virginia. Additionally, MECEPs attend the "Bulldog" course during their first summer in the program. The primary objective of this training is to ensure that Marine officer candidates possess the prerequisite moral and mental character as well as the physical strength required of Marine officers.

d. Two-Year College Program Summer Training. Those students joining NROTC after their sophomore year of college will attend the NSI for a period of 6 weeks prior to their junior year. The purpose of this training is to familiarize the Two-Year Program MIDN with the NAVS courses given during the first two years of college and to indoctrinate them into a military organization which facilitates their entry into the BN as a MIDN 2/C.

e. Nursing Scholarship Summer Training. Nurse Scholarship MIDN will have an "enlisted" nurse cruise, usually after the freshman year, and a 1/C Nurse Cruise usually after the sophomore year. The purpose of the "enlisted" nurse cruise is to introduce the MIDN to shipboard medical facilities and to the USN Corpsmen, who are the enlisted members of the medical team. The 1/C Cruise is conducted at a shore based Naval hospital.

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The MIDN is teamed up with a junior officer nurse and is introduced to the duties, responsibilities, and lifestyle of a Navy nurse. Nurse MIDN are encouraged to take these cruises before entering Nursing School (in the junior year) to allow them to complete required clinicals during the summer between their junior and senior years.

908. COMMISSIONING PROCEDURES. MIDN and OCs, upon successful completion of the prescribed NAVS courses and satisfactory completion of requirements for a degree, are commissioned in the USN or USMC as appropriate, if recommended by the PNS and approved by the SECNAV. No MIDN is recommended for appointment until he/she has been carefully evaluated by the PNS, not only academically, but for officer-like qualities and general ability.

909. POSTGRADUATE STUDIES. NETC considers requests from MIDN and OCs to delay their commissioning for the purpose of entering a graduate study program. Each applicant must pursue a Master's Degree in a field that would enhance his/her Naval professional career and is a logical progression of undergraduate study. Normally the delay will be granted for a period of only twelve months. Additionally, NETC considers requests from commissionees to delay their entry to active duty for periods of up to twelve months (for various reasons - travel, graduate education, work, etc.).

910. UNIT ORGANIZATIONS

a. Steerage. Steerage is the Naval Honorary Society founded to promote a greater degree the unity among NROTC students and to stimulate their participation in student activities. Membership is open to NROTC students in the sophomore, junior, and senior classes who are in good standing in the NROTC Unit and to anyone who have shown outstanding leadership qualities in staff billets or by achieving superior grades in their university and NROTC studies. Election to Steerage is governed by the Steerage Constitution.

b. Semper Fidelis. Semper Fidelis in the USMC professional organization which emphasizes the esprit and camaraderie that is unique to the USMC. The activities of this organization are designed to prepare Marine Option MIDN and MECEPs to assume their responsibilities as officers in the USMC. Membership is open to Navy or Marine Option MIDN, MECEPs, and by executive invitation.

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c. Drill Team. The Drill Team is composed of volunteers and usually consists of twenty-five (25) members, a CDR, and an XO. Drill Teams from Auburn University have performed at football games, parades, drill meets, and other activities, and have been consistently popular with the spectators and are a credit to the USN. The MOI is the Drill Team Advisor and supervises preparation for ceremonies and competition.

d. Flag Company. The Flag Company is composed of MIDN, OCs, and Mariners in the NROTC which march in company formation carrying flags representing the fifty-two American States and Protectorates. When the Flag Company is required, it will be designated as a part of the BN and performs at parades and various sporting events.

e. Mariners. The Mariners are the official women's auxiliary of the NROTC. Membership is open to any woman enrolled as a student at Auburn. These women support the NROTC during the school year by performing service projects and by serving as hostesses at unit sponsored social functions. Mariners are invited to all unit functions.

f. Trident Society. Trident Society is a Student Government Association (SGA) chartered professional organization representing MIDN and OCs who are interested in the Naval Nuclear Power Program and submarines. The goal of the Trident Society is to introduce and promote nuclear power to the NROTC Unit. Membership is open to those in good academic standing and interested in the nuclear field.

911. NAVY BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING. Each October the U.S. Navy's birthday is celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony. All hands are required to attend. The cake cutting is conducted by the oldest and youngest members of the unit (Active Duty/MIDN/OC). This event is run by BN members. The uniform-of-the-day is appropriate.

912. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL. Each November the USMC Birthday is celebrated with a Ball, and all hands are encouraged to attend. The event is the only unit sponsored formal social event for the fall semester. It is conducted and sponsored by Semper Fidelis and held as close to November 10 as possible. The uniform prescribed for this occasion is Dress Blue Alpha or Dinner Dress Blue. The Ball is conducted with a formal ceremony, a guest speaker, and a dinner. Afterwards, music is provided for dancing. This event is sponsored by the Semper Fidelis Society.

913. NAVY COLOR GIRL

a. Each Spring, the BN selects a Navy Color Girl from candidates in the Mariners. The newly elected Color Girl represents the NROTC the following year. In addition, she acts as the unit hostess at all official functions. The first runner-up in the selection process will serve as acting Color Girl if the Color Girl is unable to perform her duties.

b. The process for selecting the Navy Color Girl is as follows:

(1) Steerage screens possible Color Girl candidates from applications from the Mariners. The qualifications for Color Girl are:

(a) Be a Mariner in good standing at Auburn University.

(b) Be a freshman, sophomore, or junior who plans to return the following school year.

(c) Be an outstanding representative for the unit.

(2) The Navy Color Girl is expected to be present at all times when requested by the BN, Steerage, or the PNS. These times include but are not limited to:

(a) Unit social functions

(b) Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ceremonies

(c) AU President's Day Review

(3) All applications are forwarded to the Steerage Color Girl Coordinator who schedules interviews in conjunction with the Steerage Advisor. A committee interviews each candidate and selects three finalists. The committee is composed of the following members:

(a) Steerage Advisor

(b) Two (2) Steerage officers

(c) Two (2) Steerage members (one senior and one junior)

(4) Interviewers grade intelligence, dedication, poise, and appearance. Finalists are selected at least two weeks prior

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to the Mariner Anniversary Dance. Steerage ensures a picture of each finalist is displayed on the Bulletin Board and that each finalist is introduced to each class. Additionally, all finalists are encouraged to attend any and all BN events so that the MIDN and OCs can meet the candidates.

(5) A secret ballot election is held to determine the winner. Ballots are counted by the Steerage Advisor and the Color Girl Coordinator. The name of the winner is disclosed only to the PNS until the Mariner Anniversary Dance. The election is normally held during the drill period immediately preceding the dance.

c. An appropriate award is given to each finalist at the Anniversary Dance. In addition, the newly elected Color Girl is given a bouquet of flowers and a silver bowl by the PNS.

914. SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL. During spring semester, a formal dance and dinner is held in honor of the Submarine Birthday. All members of the unit are required to attend. This event is the only unit sponsored formal social event of the Spring Semester. The uniform prescribed for this event is Dinner Dress White or Dress Blue Alpha. For those members of the unit who have not acquired this uniform, Summer White is worn. This gala affair is sponsored by Trident Society and is held as close as possible to April 11. The Ball is conducted with a social hour, a ceremony, a guest speaker, and a dinner. Following the dinner, music is provided for dancing.

915. QUARTERDECK. The purpose of the Quarterdeck is to utilize the writing, design, and photographic skills of talented NROTC students to produce a yearbook covering events, functions, and activities of the unit throughout the year. Its goal is to accurately depict life at Auburn through pictures and meaningful written copy.

916. HELM

a. The Helm is the Battalion's news periodical published in the fall and spring semesters for the benefit of the NROTC. Many individuals have a flair for writing, designing newspaper layouts, drawing, and cartoon work. MIDN and OCs desiring to participate should contact the Helm Editor.

b. The Naval Service requires its officers to be well acquainted with descriptive writing. Helm work offers an excellent opportunity for future officers to express their views and observations.

917. THE UNIT FINANCE FUND (TUFF)

a. The Unit Finance Fund (TUFF) is a fund established and supported by the members of the unit for their use and benefit. A commissioned officer on the NROTC Staff acts as custodian of TUFF.

b. Each year, prior to the end of fall semester, a committee consisting of MIDN, OCs, Mariners, and a unit staff member determines the dues required of each member. This assessment is used to defray the cost of many unit activities such as tailgates, Navy Birthday Cake Cuttings, Marine Corps Birthday Balls, Submarine Birthday Balls, and other functions as recommended by the TUFF Committee and approved by the PNS.

918. AWARDS. Numerous awards are available to outstanding NROTC students. Awards are of several types: Unit awards, outside agency awards based on unit nominations, and awards for which the student must apply. Presentations are normally made during scheduled ceremonies such as the Navy Birthday Ceremony, the Spring Awards Ceremony, and President's Day Review and Award Ceremony. Additionally, NROTC students are eligible to receive ribbons for special achievements or as members of the unit's societies. A listing of most of the unit's awards and ribbons and the qualifications for each is provided in Appendix D. Note that many require the student to submit packages to qualify for the award.