



UNL NROTC

TIDE & CURRENT

06 December 2023
Fall Semester

Navy & Marine Corps Ball

In a grand culmination of the year's festivities, the eagerly awaited USN/USMC Birthday Ball took place on December 2nd at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The distinguished guest of honor, LtCol Steven Johnson (USMC Ret.), graced the event, adding an extra layer of significance to the already momentous occasion. The ball served as a poignant celebration, marking not only the rich naval traditions but also the camaraderie and achievements of the UNL Naval community.

This year brought significant changes to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's NROTC Unit with a notable staff turnover. While CAPT Bowman continues as our Commanding Officer, Commander Jack Reiner, a Naval Aviator, assumed the role of Executive Officer, Captain Brian Garretson, a Marine Logistics Officer, became the unit's Marine Officer Instructor (MOI), Lieutenant Kashawn Lungelow, assumed the role of staff Surface Warfare Officer, and Staff Sergeant Dylan Taylor, a Motor Transport Chief and Drill Instructor, became the unit's Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI).

Amidst these changes, the summer saw the arrival of a new class of fourth class Midshipmen. Navigating the transformative journey to become MIDN at UNL, the incoming students engaged in the vibrant New Student Orientation (16-18 August), guided by both peers and staff. The subsequent Navy Week (21-25 August) in Lincoln featured a captivating talk by RMDL Wirth and a visit to the Lincoln Airshow. Noteworthy events included the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Run and a Joint POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony (14 September) with the Aerospace cadre.



Shown above: Navy & Marine Corps Ball



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Shown above: MIDN 1/C Weigand (California, Aviation Cruise)



Shown above: MIDN 2/C Ermer, middle row, white shirt (Japan, SWO Cruise)

Recognizing academic achievements and battalion commitments, the Student Awards (19 September) set the stage for a commendable fall season. The Marine-led Fall Field Exercise "Red Lightning" (6-8 October) immersed 18 students in tactical exploration, followed by the intensely competitive Joint Service Field Meet (27 October), where the Navy secured a close second place to Army.

November unfolded with pivotal events like Ship Selection (7 November), Veteran's Day National Roll Call (10 November), and the convivial Joint Mess Night (17 November). The month reached its pinnacle with the Army/Navy Flag Football Game (20 November), resonating with the spirited cadence of inter-service rivalry.

To close off the semester, MIDN 1/C Dash Spears will be commissioning into the United States Navy on December 16th with a designation of Surface Warfare Officer (Nuclear). This designation entails training as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard Naval vessels which are the backbone of the fleet, as well as attending Naval Nuclear Propulsion School in Charleston, South Carolina.

Next semester we look forward to the annual Colorado Drill Meet at CU Boulder, another intense Field Exercise, as well as commissioning. The names of those to be commissioned are: MIDN 1/C Dane Bowers (USMC), MIDN 1/C Peyton Weigand (USN Aviation), and MIDN 1/C Kenneth Reese (USN Submarines).



My summer training with the USS New Orleans as part of the NROTC summer cruises was a transformative experience that provided me with invaluable skills, a strong sense of discipline, and a deep appreciation for the Navy's mission. The positive experiences and lessons I took away from this training have not only shaped my aspirations but have also strengthened my determination to contribute to the defense and security of our nation as a future naval officer.

- MIDN 2/C Henexson

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