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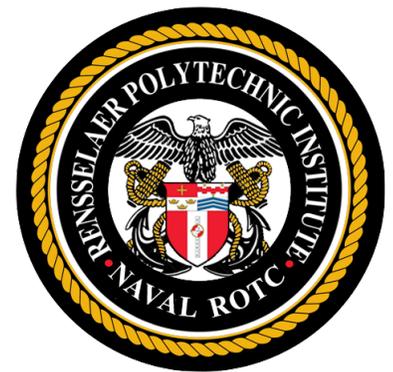
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A Message From Our Commanding Officer

Captain Jeffery A. Joseph,
USN



Greetings families, friends, and alumni of NROTCU RPI!

The Fall 2018 semester has been a successful one for the Midshipmen of NROTCU RPI. We have had the benefit of a number of interesting guest speakers at our weekly drill periods ranging from law enforcement (FBI and ATF) to our Flag Officer sponsor, RDML Fort who currently serves as the Commander of Navy Region Hawaii. The Midshipmen did an outstanding job with a number of unit events described here in the Hi-Line. We also had a strong showing in the Marine Corps Marathon (see picture on Page 1) and filmed our first ever Army-Navy Game Spirit spot. Check it out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcOlAZH7zeg>. Our 1/C MIDN (Seniors) fared well in their service assignments, a reflection of their hard work and dedication. We have seven future surface warfare officers (including two nukes), six future submariners, and four future aviators. We will commission our first Ensign of the class in December.

Looking ahead to Spring 2019, the Midshipmen will be participating in military excellence competitions (including one right here at RPI) and leadership conferences. We will also hold the Joint Services Military Ball, Dining In, and our annual Awards Ceremony. Of course, the ultimate event in the Spring will come when we commission the class of 2019. Stay tuned to the Spring edition of the Hi Line for more on all these events. Over the summer, our current 3/C MIDN (Sophomores) will participate in a new program known as Sea Trials/Battle Stations. They will train on fleet-centered skills and ultimately be required to pass a days-long final event to certify their proficiency. Our incoming 4/C MIDN (prospective Freshmen) will participate in an indoctrination course at Naval Station Great Lakes where the Navy conducts boot camp training for all our incoming enlisted Sailors.

Our incoming class of 2023 is starting to take shape from the NROTC scholarship boards; I would like to see it grow. It is no secret to all of you that NROTC is a tremendous program and that the unit here at RPI is an outstanding one (I have an obvious bias here, but just ask any of our MIDN). We want to get those facts in front of as many young people as possible. There are high school students out there who would be a great fit for the NROTC program and RPI, if only they knew about the program and the school. We are working hard to get the information out there but the most powerful messaging comes from word-of-mouth. If you know a qualified high school student who might be a good fit, please do not hesitate to tell them about the program and/or put them in touch with the unit staff. (That includes siblings too...we have had a number of sets over the years.)

A Message From Our Commanding Officer (cont.)

Captain Jeffery A. Joseph,
USN

Caution: shameless fundraising pitch ahead.... As we look ahead to the coming months, our goal here at the unit is to provide the Midshipmen as many opportunities for training and development as possible. While the Navy firmly supports the NROTC program in terms of benefits, there are a number of discretionary events that depend on our university budget. If you are interested in helping us increase the opportunities for our Midshipmen, there is donation information about the Navy Midshipmen Alumni and Friends Fund at the end of the Hi-Line. Every cent of that fund goes toward MIDN training events such as attendance at Leadership Conferences across the Nation, and Military Excellence Competitions throughout the Northeast.

We are on our way to a great year and look forward to seeing families and friends at our upcoming events. For those Alumni out there, please feel free to stop by any time and share a few sea stories. Thanks for your ongoing support of the Midshipmen and our mission.

Happy Holidays
CAPT Jeff Joseph
Commanding Officer – NROTCU RPI



New Student Orientation

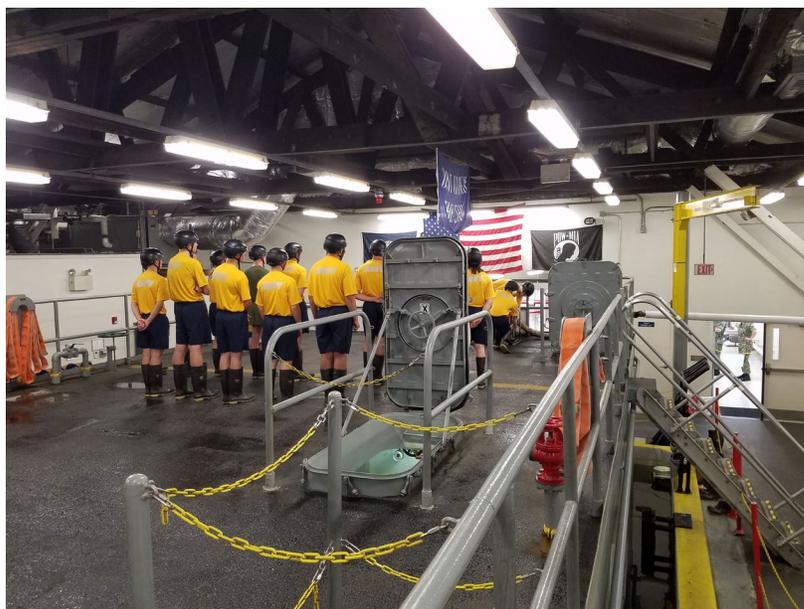
MIDN 4/C Christian Charache

This past August, NROTCURPI's freshmen travelled to the Naval Station in Newport, Rhode Island where they underwent their New Student Orientation, or "O-Week" for short. O-Week is an annual event during where freshmen are introduced to the NROTC program and learn skills that are vital to becoming a naval officer.

O-Week provides the incoming 4th Class midshipmen with the basic knowledge, traditions, and customs that will govern while them at NROTCURPI. This is taught in a very high paced environment, teaching the 4th Class to react quickly to a superior, with a purpose that demonstrates their knowledge. It also allows selected 3rd and 2nd Class Midshipmen to utilize the leadership skills they have learned at NROTCURPI.

What made O-Week at Newport unique was the opportunity to train on the USS Buttercup; a simulator that recreates a sinking ship. The freshman spent the morning learning about the different types of damage control, the communications that take place during a crisis, and the real jobs that sailors have shipboard. They were then able to test their newfound knowledge aboard the intense, timed simulation. This was a highlight from O-Week for many of the freshman.

Also undergoing "O-Week" at the same time as RPI were NROTC Units Holy Cross and Yale. On Day 4, a physical fitness "field day" competition was held between the units which included: 1600m relay, 400m run, 100m water jug run, Ammo can presses, pushups, and an obstacle course. This event was a great way for the incoming RPI midshipmen to build unit camaraderie and spirit. RPI came out on top, being crowned champions of the event, earning them bragging rights for the remainder of the week.



Birthday Ball

MIDN 2/C Alexander
Zhang

The midshipmen, unit staff, and friends of NROTCU RPI celebrated the 243rd birthday of the Navy and Marine Corps on October 13. This event, Birthday Ball, is a formal military ball in which members uphold the traditions and ceremonies of the Navy to honor its history and heritage. This year's guest of honor was Captain Edward "Chip" Zawislak.

The unit and guests assembled at the Sage Banquet Hall on-campus at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. The event commenced with a cocktail hour followed by the call to mess. MIDN 4/C Sarah Canfield delivered a prayer of invocation. Following this, the significance of the POW/MIA table was called to attention. This is a small table is always set at a military ball, but never occupied, to remember our fallen comrades and those who are prisoners of war.

The color guard was led by MIDN 2/C Rylee Clark. Five midshipmen presented the colors of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the United States.

The commanding officer Captain Joseph, delivered some brief remarks about the Navy's history and the challenges of the future. Following this, the guest of honor, Captain Zawislak gave a speech about leadership and dedication to duty as a supply officer connected to all communities in the Navy.

In keeping with the Navy tradition, the cake was cut with a sword by the youngest midshipman MIDN 4/C Harison Stevens, and the oldest sailor CAPT Joseph. In addition, another piece of cake was cut by the oldest Marine present, GySgt Joshua Flesher, and given to the youngest marine-option midshipman present, MIDN 4/C Conor Morford.

A competition was held to create the design of the Birthday Ball mug. This year's design featured the Marine Corps' enduring mantra "First to Fight" and the Navy's slogan, adopted earlier this year, "Forged by the Sea."

MIDN 2/C Victoria Makara was the coordinator for Birthday Ball and ensured that its planning and execution were a success.



Family Weekend Fun

MIDN 4/C Charles
Bernstein



This year on Oct 20th, NROTCURPI held a few special events for the parents and other visitors during the Family Weekend here at RPI. The activities included an open house of the wardroom and a barbecue during the annual Blue vs. Gold game.

While the parents were touring the wardroom, eight 4th Class midshipmen led by MIDN 2/C Victoria Hicks conducted a drill demonstration in the Armory. All the 4/C Midshipmen have been practicing drill every week to be prepared to compete in a military excellence competition next spring. To show off how far they had come from O-Week, the Midshipmen marched and performed facing movements in formation. One of the purposes of teaching close order drill is to instill in MIDN both discipline and confidence.

After the open house, everyone met up at Anderson field for the Blue vs. Gold flag football game. It was a little muddy and windy but both sides gave it their all and MIDN 3/C Zawislak said that it was “a good showing of sportsmanship.” The Gold team won the game.

The color guard presented the colors at halftime and everyone went on to have a great weekend with their families.

Joint Service Camaraderie

MIDN 3/C Caroline
Mahar

Late September, midshipmen and cadets from the Bravo Company Mohawk Battalion and Air Force Detachment 550 gathered at ECAV to watch the RPI football team play Buffalo State. MIDN 2/C Victoria Makara and 2/C Brendan McCoy presented the colors with the JS Color Guard while MIDN 2/C Victoria Hicks, 3/C Nathan Arntz, 3/C Caroline Mahar, 3/C Reagan Stroka, 4/C Charles Bernstein and 4/C Harison Stevens with the JS Vocalists sang the National Anthem before kickoff. Midshipmen and cadets alike enjoyed the nice weather and the 44-14 win.



A few weeks later, we all gathered again in the Houston Field House to watch the men's hockey team face off against Saint Lawrence University. MIDN 2/C Rylee Clark, 2/C Makara and 4/C Whitlock presented the colors this time as part of the JS Color Guard, and MIDN 2/C Dalton Wessels, 3/C Arntz, 3/C Mahar, 3/C Stroka, 4/C Bernstein and 4/C Stevens joined the JS Vocalists in singing the National Anthem on the ice. We were all fortunate enough to see the Engineers pull through for a 3-2 win.



Morale, Welfare and Recreation Events

MIDN 3/C Benjamin Zawislak

At RPI, classes can seem to drag on forever and homework can pile up until you can no longer see the top. But have no fear, the MWR division is here for Midshipmen to take a load off and relax without thinking about that project that is due tomorrow at midnight. This semester, MWR hosted a variety of events, from laser-tag to movie nights to a pumpkin carving contest to a pool tournament. “My favorite MWR event was the pool tournament, where I got to play pool, eat free pizza, and hang with friends,” said MIDN 3/C Christopher Kang. MWR’s main purpose is to provide Midshipmen with unit sponsored events that allow for inter-class socializing in a productive atmosphere to help build unit camaraderie.

MWR also runs IM Sports for the unit’s team, SKELETON KRU, where Midshipmen can get a workout in while also competing in a little friendly competition against the rest of the school. These sports include dodgeball, soccer, basketball and more. “Being in a team environment with people you’re going to be working with in NROTCURPI and potentially in the fleet is a great opportunity to build cohesion and leadership,” MIDN 1/C Dalton Wessels said about the IM Program. This season, our SKELETON KRU team brought home wins in the Ping Pong, 3 vs. 3 Basketball and Floor Hockey Championships.

MWR will continue to work hard planning events for semesters to come and SKELETON KRU will continue pursuing more IM Sports Championships.



Community Clubs

MIDN 1/C Paul Naumann

Five Community Clubs were established within the unit in the Fall 2018 semester; submarines, SWO nuke, surface, aviation, and special forces/EOD. These clubs are places for midshipmen to come together and share their passion for the community into which they wish to commission. They also allow those undecided midshipmen to learn more about the various communities within the Navy so that they may make a more informed decision about their career path. The clubs are led by first class midshipmen who are passionate about their future careers. The clubs' activities revolve around building camaraderie and skills which will be important for those entering the club's community.

MIDN 1/C Brian Wisbauer of the surface club has the ship bridge simulator up and running and to put the future SWOs through navigation exercises. SWO club has also shared this capability with the future submariners so that all may improve this important proficiency.

The submarine and SWO nuke clubs, led by MIDN 1/C Robert Claude and MIDN 1/C Conor Hanlon respectively, have been helping prospective nukes to prepare for their interviews by hosting study sessions and sharing questions featured in previous interviews. The SWO and submarine clubs are also coordination ship tours at Naval bases in the region, as well as a visit to the USS Nautilus submarine museum.

The special forces/EOD club, led by MIDN 2/C John Obermiller, is helping its members to prepare physically for the rigors of their field's indoctrination courses by hosting runs and gym sessions.

Finally, aviation club, led by MIDN 1/C Michaela Bailie, has been hosting events to build camaraderie between future fliers and NFOs while also preparing members for preflight training.

These clubs represent an important extension of NROTCURPI's capacity for creating capable officers for the Navy.

Midshipman Commanding Officer Corner

MIDN 1/C Grant
Tribble

Donation Information

Checks can be made out to “Navy Midshipmen Alumni and Friends” and sent to:

RPI Naval Service
110 8th Street
AS&RC 201
Troy, NY 12189

Contact Info

Phone: (518) 276-8001
Fax: (518) 276-4788

[Unit Website](#)

The fall 2018 Semester has been quite the trip for myself, the members of the MIDN Staff, and NROTCURPI as a whole. Our focus for the semester was to cultivate a culture of initiative and innovation by encouraging midshipmen to develop their own drive and working together as a cohesive team. The Ship’s company accomplished this and much more than I could have ever hoped for.

Taking on the role of midshipmen commanding officer was both a humbling and inspiring experience. Understanding the complexities of orchestrating a large variety of people – all coming from various backgrounds – can be quite a challenge. All our midshipmen share a common goal, but they all also have different personalities, interests, strengths, and weaknesses. Seeing my fellow midshipmen embrace one another’s differences; invest in each other; and help support one another’s weaknesses helped me fully realize the brilliance of our unit, and the Navy as a whole. My position this last semester was to focus the myriad of talent, passion, and perseverance of all the midshipmen in NROTCURPI; their hard work is what makes us great. I would like to thank the entire Ship’s Company because, despite how cliché it may sound, we really could not have completed goals without your unwavering dedication. It has been an honor. I am also especially grateful to the Unit Staff for guiding myself and the rest of my staff through this journey. Without their knowledge and wisdom, I would not have felt as prepared and confident in my abilities.

Finally, to all my fellow midshipmen: Enjoy your time here, make friends, go on an adventure and take every opportunity with passion and happiness. Although the school work can be hard, the early mornings for workouts can be grueling, and you will probably feel overwhelmed on multiple occasions; you’ll remember the good times, the times spent with your friends, the sense of accomplishment for doing well on a test or on the PRT, the camaraderie you have built with those around you. The years will go by quicker than you might think, so enjoy them now because every day is a chance to grow and become better, and that’s all any of us can try and do.

It's our legacy – define it, shape it, make it happen!



RPI NROTC



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