The Ironclad


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Welcome to NROTC Rochester

Since 1945, the University of Rochester and its affiliated universities have hosted one of the most successful and rigorous naval officer training programs in the country. In over seventy years of existence, NROTC Rochester has been defined by exceptional holistic standards and unparalleled victories in drill competitions. Here, Navy and Marine Corps Midshipmen are forged into the finest young officers of their generations.

At the Unit, Midshipmen develop high standards of technical proficiency. As the science of warfare continues to evolve, the military demands technically skilled officers so that it may adapt in response. Operating with this fundamental understanding, NROTC Rochester instructs its students in challenging courses such as Naval Science, Navigation, and Weapon Systems. Over half of Rochester’s Midshipmen graduate with degrees in engineering or science to further expand their technical preparation.

While recognizing the necessity of technically competent officers, NROTC Rochester does not forget the value of the moral standards it was founded upon. Throughout their careers at Rochester, Midshipmen take courses in leadership, ethics, and moral responsibility. Beyond that, Midshipmen ardently study the moral codes set forth to them by national NROTC mandates and some of the Unit’s own specialized literature. They are trained to think critically, logically, and morally about situations they will likely encounter as future officers. Through this process, they develop the highest ideals of morality and nobility that will guide them through their careers.

To complete the balanced tradition of excellence, NROTC Rochester requires Midshipmen to muster twice a week for physical training and also requires freshmen students to muster twice more for drill. During physical training, Midshipmen are taught the importance of physical fitness and its role in developing a healthy lifestyle and work ethic. Intense workouts allow Midshipmen to make significant progress and excel in athletic competitions against other ROTC units. In the past year alone, NROTC Rochester has won first overall in three consecutive drill competitions against other units like Norwich University, Villanova University, and the Naval Academy.

Because of its competitive success and unshakable demand for overall excellence, NROTC Rochester has earned a national reputation for producing top-tier officers. Rochester Midshipmen expose themselves to a rigorous development challenge. Not everyone can withstand the pressure, but those that do are forged, like steel, and emerge as the best military officers the world will see.

-MIDN 3/C Zackery Ely
Since my arrival in April 2014, the Battalion of Midshipmen and NROTC Unit Staff have consistently impressed me with their commitment to their professional and personal excellence. As the Professor of Naval Science at NROTC Rochester, I am proud and humbled to be a part of this Unit. In addition to their successes on the drill deck and athletic fields, Battalion Midshipmen achieve academic success every day in the classroom and serve their university and local communities as proud ambassadors of the Navy-Marine Corps team. The Midshipmen of the Class of 2015 are six months away from commissioning as Naval Officers, but they have proven they have the mettle to succeed as Ensigns and Second Lieutenants. Their consummate leadership of the Battalion is reflected in their ability to autonomously plan and execute Battalion operations with minimal Unit Staff supervision. Midshipman Nysenbaum, the Battalion Commander, has deftly led his peers and Battalion Staff to many successes this semester. In addition to the “routine operations” of the NROTC Battalion, the Class of 2015 has impressed with their leadership of the orientation of the Midshipmen of the Class of 2018, the 9-11 Vigil Run, and the Veterans Day Joint Service Run with the Air Force and Army ROTC Units from RIT.

Most recently, the Battalion participated in the Cornell University Invitational Drill and Military Excellence Competition. With their first place finishes in the drill competition, physical fitness competition, and the overall competition, they have won their second consecutive championship at Cornell, an admirable feat in light of the competition from nine other schools including West Point, Villanova, RPI, and Cornell. Their success was the capstone to two months of work and dedication to drill and military excellence. The Battalion’s victory was further highlighted by their incredible enthusiasm, teamwork, and esprit de corps.

As the Class of 2015 look forward to their commissioning on May 16th with Rear Admiral Richard Williams (NROTC Rochester Class of 1984) as the presiding officer, they are further motivated by recent news of their service assignments. Of the 11 projected Ensigns and Second Lieutenants, seven are Navy Option and four are Marine Option. Of the seven Navy Option, MIDN Shaps and Tucker have been selected for the “silent service”; MIDN Dudek, Smith, and Thibodeau have been selected as naval aviators; and, MIDN Navarro and Tanner have been selected for surface warfare. Of the Marine Option Midshipmen, MIDN Nysenbaum has earned a Marine aviation guarantee; and MIDN Campbell, Gage, and Muller will know their future career specialty during their training at The Basic School in Quantico. We are very excited and proud for all of them as their futures in the naval service are indeed bright.

As I write this article, final exams are a mere 2-3 weeks away and the holiday break is on the horizon. So, I close out with a note of Happy Holidays to the Midshipmen, Unit Staff, parents and families, and NROTC Rochester alumni! May 2015 bring you good health, happiness, and success in all your endeavors.

N. M. Nobrega
A Word From Our Battalion Commander

ROTC sets out with the mission to develop Midshipmen morally, physically, and mentally. The Rochester Naval ROTC has always carried on a tradition of excellence and high performance in all of these categories. This semester has continued the tradition in both qualitative and quantitative measures alike. From community service to military competition amongst other units (both ROTC programs and service academies) our Unit stands among the most elite in the country. This high standard comes from intense training and standards set for our Midshipmen that molds future leaders in the Navy and Marine Corps.

This semester, each company selected an organization to work with in order to benefit the community. These organizations include the YMCA, the Scottsville Animal Shelter, Food Link and Habitat for Humanity. Midshipmen devote their free time on the weekends on a voluntary basis to work with all of these organizations. Their efforts have truly made a difference in the community. In addition, the Battalion volunteers with the University of Rochester to help with events including orientation and Full Circle Home, an American non-profit organization whose goal is to support the special women of our Armed Forces during deployments. Our presence is felt within the community and serves as a testament to the moral commitment Midshipmen make to better themselves and the surrounding area.

Outside of these high visibility events Midshipmen challenge themselves at the annual Cornell Drill and Military Excellence Competition. At this event Rochester placed first overall for a repeat victory. The Battalion dominated in every aspect of the competition which encompasses running, swimming, overall fitness and drill events. With stiff competition in every event, it is a testament to the Battalion's hard work that we triumphed over seven units, the United States Military Academy and three other service academies.

Academically, the Battalion has Midshipmen who rank among the top of their class. They excel in difficult majors while still balancing the duties which come with preparing to lead the nation’s finest in the Naval services. Our Battalion has resounding success with over 90% above a 2.5 GPA and several Midshipmen on Dean's List.

I would like to thank everyone who worked hard to make this semester a success. A leader is only as good as the staff who support them. The Rochester Naval ROTC Midshipmen have exceeded all of the expectations I had for them and I am confident this tradition will continue for the foreseeable future due to the hard work given on a daily basis.

-MIDN 1/C Joshua Nysenbaum
**A Different Perspective**

### FROM THE EYES OF A 4/C MIDN

My name is Midshipman 4/C Kober and I am a Mechanical Engineering major at the University of Rochester. It was a little intimidating when I first started NROTC, but as time has progressed I have felt more integrated in the program and comfortable with the requirements. I have received a tremendous amount of support from Midshipmen in my class, in my company, and those who have gone through a similar experience playing a varsity sport as well which has made the transition so much easier for me. I really love the physical fitness regimen so I can stay in shape and continue to get stronger for the Navy and my soccer team. One of the biggest obstacles for me is time management. I have so many competing priorities between my rigorous academics, NROTC, and soccer. Since starting college about four months ago, my routine is getting better and I am becoming more effective at juggling my responsibilities. It is definitely a challenge but completely doable and worth the hard work.

It’s amazing how much we have already learned about the United States Navy and I am excited to continue to learn and grow as I work towards becoming a naval officer. Through my naval science classes, afternoon labs and listening to those who have served or still currently serve, I have been exposed to an extensive amount of information about each of the fields in the Navy. Right now I am leaning toward the surface warfare or aviation communities but I am still weighing my options. What I love is that every person that speaks about their experience in the Navy speaks so highly of their community. It makes me excited to know that wherever I may end up, it would be hard to make the wrong choice or get placed in an area that I wouldn’t enjoy to some degree.

I chose the University of Rochester because of the reputation of the NROTC program and Rochester’s academics as well as for the competitive Division III soccer program. One great benefit that I could not have anticipated before college is how many amazing people I would meet in my Unit, on my soccer team, in my dorm and in classes. I do have to sacrifice social outings in order to keep up with my workload but when I have time, I enjoy building relationships with the people around me. Overall, coming to the University of Rochester was the right decision for me and I am proud to be a member of this NROTC Unit.

-MIDN 4/C Nicolette Kober

### FROM THE EYES OF A 1/C MIDN

Time after time I have been told how fast college flies, but just how fast is hard to see until you’re starting to plan for what comes next. The reality of our next step has begun to set in, and the time that is left has become all the more precious. More than ever, college has become a balancing act of social, academic, and ROTC obligations.

I’ve spent my last year of college trying to play catch-up on all the things I said I’d do...eventually. With additional freedoms academically I am able to take the classes I have wanted to take for years. Having found a major and a subfocus I am passionate about, classes are less of a chore and more of a pleasure. Finding a subject I enjoy is what I attribute most to my success in college. I cannot encourage those in their first years in the program enough to find a topic they feel the same about, rather than one they think would look good or is easy.

The buzzword for this semester has been leadership. Coming into senior year I am both impressed by how much I have grown and at the same time I have become hyper aware of my shortcomings. I, as with the rest of the seniors, have spent much time considering my leadership style; trying to find what works with my personality. There is a feeling of not only having responsibility for myself, but also the younger members of the Battalion. We as the senior class want to do all we can to allow the underclassmen to succeed not only in ROTC, but also their academics and career aspirations. Nothing makes our efforts feel more worthwhile than their success, whether at a drill competition, the physical fitness test or a midterm. While we sometimes disagree on the best means to enable our fellow Midshipmen, we always have their best interests in mind.

The growth of my own peers has also been exciting to watch. As a First Class Midshipman, it is nearly impossible to go unnoticed, especially for those in a senior Battalion leadership position. Rather than trying to shy away from this attention, my First Class Shipmates have taken the idea of setting the example to heart. We have learned that true authority as a leader must come from the respect of those you lead. Authority given from the position alone is not enough. This respect must come from showing that you share the passion of your followers and that you are unafraid to stand up for them when time comes.

As I prepare to move into my professional pipeline, I am confident that the training I have received at NROTCU Rochester will allow me to excel at whatever comes next. While not everything we do here may correlate directly to activities in the fleet, the principles of self-discipline, selflessness, and respect I have learned here are applicable to all of life’s challenges.

-MIDN 1/C Ari Shaps
Welcoming a New Class

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The purpose of New Student Orientation in NROTC is to introduce the incoming 4/C Midshipman to the standards they are expected to uphold at NROTC Rochester. The incoming 4/C Midshipmen were introduced to their Upper Class Instructors in the afternoon on Friday, 22 August. The Upper Class Instructors held the 4/C MIDN to high standards from the very second orientation began. Orientation is a high intensity environment in which everything they learn is brand new. They are taught everything once and expected to execute it flawlessly from that point forward. The first night of orientation was chaotic as 4/C MIDN learned how to wear their uniforms and the importance of discipline, speed, and intensity. The next morning, for probably the first time in their lives, were expected to be up and completely ready by 0500. After being picked up from their dorms by Upper Class Instructors they took either the Navy Physical Fitness Assessment or the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test. Orientation is packed full of classes on leadership, general military subjects and drill; the 4/C MIDN were exhausted, but constantly learned throughout the weekend. In the afternoon, the 4/C MIDN demonstrated their leadership abilities during an intellect leadership reaction course (LRC). They were split into small groups and expected to overcome challenges such as moving a personnel casualty under electrified barbed wire or constructing a plank bridge to move gear across a river. The last day of Orientation tested mental toughness during a crossfit workout that pushed even the Instructors to their limits. After another day packed full of classes, MIDN Gonta and MIDN Nicholas were picked to raise the National Flag in front of the Battalion and other spectators. This is an honor granted to the 4/C MIDN who have been top performers throughout the weekend. This year it was an especially big honor because unlike in years past, the flag used was the retirement flag for RADM David M. Duryea, a 1983 NROTC Rochester alumnus. After colors was the Battalion Commander’s Inspection and the graduation ceremony to welcome the new freshman into the Battalion.

-MIDN 1/C Mackenzie Gage
On Thursday, September 11th, NROTC Rochester held several activities in memory of those Americans killed by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is a solemn day with grim memories for all Americans, but for our military community it is an especially revered date. It is a potent reminder that we as Americans are not invulnerable, that we must remain vigilant and be ready to answer the call at a moment’s notice. Freedom comes at a price and each year on September 11th, our military men and women are reminded of their responsibility to take a stand for our country’s liberties. Not out of necessity, but out of pride. The morning began with the Unit conducting a three-mile motivational run around campus chanting cadences while carrying the Navy, Marine Corp, and American flags. The purpose of the run was not simply to motivate and build teamwork amongst the Midshipmen, but to pay respect to all those affected by the 9/11 tragedy. Several Midshipmen from NROTC Rochester also participated later that morning in a vigil held at the Rochester Institute of Technology organized by Air Force and Army Cadets from their respective ROTC Units. It was an important reminder that although friendly competition exists between service branches, they all train and fight together as brothers and sisters in arms. The different services came together to honor the memory of those affected by the attacks, saluting at the exact times each plane struck our homeland. The day concluded as NROTC Rochester held their own vigil in the middle of Eastman Quad at the University of Rochester. In shifts, Midshipmen proudly displayed the American flag reflecting the commitment they devote to our country. The vigil served as a reminder to the U of R community of the sacrifice made on that day in 2001. As expected, it was a powerful and emotional event. A Vietnam War veteran paid his respects by participating in the vigil and standing alongside the Midshipmen for well over an hour. By remembering those who lost their lives on that day, we are strengthened as a University community in our resolve to uphold the freedoms of our country.

-MIDN 3/C Jacob Shawler
On Saturday, 13 September, several members of the Battalion had the incredible experience of participating in the Rochester River Challenge. The event draws groups from neighborhoods, businesses and organizations like NROTC Rochester to support Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, an organization devoted to providing unique opportunities to individuals with physical or intellectual disabilities. One of the seven-person teams at the event was a group of Wounded Warriors whose bodies and lives were severely altered in the service of their country. On the previous night of 12 September, the team of Midshipmen attended a dinner that included not only the seven wounded warriors, but retired military personnel and supporters of the event as well. They had the unique opportunity to hear from Sailors, Soldiers, Marines and Airmen who served in combat from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and through present day conflicts. As for the race, the Rochester Midshipmen, despite learning the proper rowing technique just minutes before the race, were able to take first in their heat and second overall in their group, posting one of the fastest times of the day. At around noon the Rochester Color Guard performed in a ceremony honoring the seven wounded warriors in the race, capping a very rewarding experience for all who were involved.

-MIDN 3/C Stephen Loder

Some say there is no better way to bond and grow than to endure through challenging times together. Several Midshipmen from the Rochester Unit drove to New Jersey on the weekend of October 11th to compete in the Tri-State Tough Mudder with thousands of motivated people from all over the world. The experience is a “10-12 mile obstacle course designed to test all around strength, stamina, teamwork and mental grit,” as Tough Mudder likes to put it. More than anything, the Tough Mudder emphasizes camaraderie over individual accomplishment claiming that we can make it through anything in life if we work together. There is no better feeling than being surrounded by those that are more motivated to help the team rather than just themselves. Completing an obstacle was just the beginning of accomplishment; each and every competitor reached out with their mud-caked hand to assist those who followed, which made a collection of thousands, seem like one team. This event was a once in a lifetime experience that bonded us as fellow Midshipmen and will serve as a time to remind us that we all play a pivotal role in working together in the Fleet to accomplish the mission. I would like to thank MIDN Alex Dudek, Mackenzie Gage, Dan Tucker, Ryan Hubbs and Stephen Loder for sharing this remarkable experience with me. These are the type of leaders that the University of Rochester has shaped for all my time here, and it will be an honor to serve with them in the Fleet.

-MIDN 2/C Timothy Cooper


**Navy Birthday Ball**

On October 13, 2014 NROTC Rochester attended the 239th celebration of the Navy’s Birthday. The Birthday Ball was held at the Airport Marriot where local area and Canadian officers and enlisted members were also in attendance.

At this formal event there were several formalities and customs that were upheld including the presentation of colors, the setting of the table for the fallen soldier, and the cutting of the cake. The audience was honored to hear Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo as the Navy Ball's guest speaker. FLTCM Beldo is the Navy Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education Fleet Master Chief.

This was an excellent experience for all Midshipmen who attended as they were able to observe how several customs of the Navy are carried out in a formal environment. The 4/C were also able to speak to and glean information from the officers at the Ball giving the 4/C a greater perspective of life after NROTC and out at sea.

Fleet Master Chief Beldo expressed how important it is to uphold the standards set by the Navy. She retiring soon but first has to make sure that her juniors know how to uphold those standards. This reminds us all as we move closer toward service that we must make every effort to maintain the standards of the Navy and Armed Forces.

Toward the end of the ceremony the honor of cutting the cake was bestowed to Master Chief (Ret.) Griswold and MIDN 3/C Shawler, the oldest and youngest members present. AFCM Griswold entered the Navy in 1951. It is a pleasure to know that through this custom and our attendance at the Ball, others in the Navy community get to see that NROTC Rochester is eager to learn the Navy’s customs and become part of the world’s greatest Navy.

-MIDN 4/C Robert Nicholas

**Service Birthdays at the Battalion**

This year, NROTC Unit Rochester celebrated both the Navy and Marine Corps birthdays in their own unique ways. The Navy birthday ceremony took place in our usual lab location in Bausch and Lomb Hall on 15 Oct 2014. MIDN 1/C Dudek received the prestigious Legion of Valor Award which is only given to a select few Midshipmen throughout the country every year. CAPT Nobrega gave the Battalion a presentation on the origins of the Navy, our earliest ships as well as the Navy today and how far we have come. He then presented the Chief of Naval Operations birthday remarks. Lastly, we had the oldest Sailor (CAPT Nobrega) and the youngest sailor (MIDN 4/C Tyson) cut the cake.

The Marine Corps birthday ceremony, which took place on 05 Nov 2014, was a slightly more formal event than the Navy’s birthday ceremony. The entire Battalion was in formation in Spurrier Gym for an inspection followed by the Marine Corps Birthday Ceremony. Capt Quezada read the Commandant’s birthday message. In that message, he spoke about the challenges that Marines have faced and will continue to face throughout history and the importance of persevering through these challenges. At this point the cake was brought out in a formal procession and just like the Navy birthday ceremony, the youngest and oldest Marines present cut the cake. Capt Quezada and MIDN 4/C Bova ceremoniously cut the cake. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Color Guard performed and everyone enjoyed their cake. The tradition of the birthday ceremonies shows the connection each branch has with the past and how we must never forget our roots.

-MIDN 4/C Thomas Burke
Meliora Weekend was an incredibly busy and exciting weekend for NROTC Rochester. During this four-day homecoming weekend, the Midshipmen in the Battalion had the pleasure of meeting a few alumni of the Unit and school. Starting with the 1/C lunch at Tony D’s Pizzeria the senior Midshipmen met and spoke to the four alumni who were visiting. The first alumni was Captain Thomas Daly, from the Class of 2004. During his career in the Marine Corps, he served as an artillery officer assigned to the 11th Marine Regiment. From 2006-2007, he was deployed to Ramadi, Iraq with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The second alumnus was Lieutenant Commander Jennifer Free who commissioned through NROTC in 2000. She is currently assigned to the United States Special Operations Command as a future operations planner. Next was David Canning from the Class of 1995. Canning is the Omega EP Laser Facility Manager responsible for one of the two large Department of Energy-funded laser machines at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics. Lastly was Richard Cavagnol from the Class of 1964. After commissioning from the University of Rochester, he joined the Howtar Battery, 2nd Battalion 12th Marines, which deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam in June, 1965. His awards include two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, the Purple Heart, the Navy Commendation Medal with Valor, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Vietnamese Technical Service Cross 1st Class. All four served as alumni panelists for an event hosted Friday afternoon during Meliora Weekend. Concluding the alumni panel event, an open house and dedication of the Midshipmen Training Room to Lieutenant Colonel Victor Ohanesian took place. The open house event provided a good opportunity for the Midshipmen to speak to some of the panelists, and also for the parents of current Midshipmen to view the Unit and speak with some of the Unit staff. Experience and knowledge were plentiful during this Meliora Weekend. Through these events and special guests, Midshipmen were able to gain valuable insight and advice which they will take with them as future Navy and Marine Corps Officers.

-MIDN 3/C Jean-Marc Boullianne
Rochester NROTC Gets Hands-On In The Community

Alpha Company Put Food on the Table

Alpha Company supports an organization called Foodlink. Foodlink is a regional food hub that targets the root causes of hunger. They distribute food to a network of human service agencies, serve meals through their commercial kitchen, and offer more than 30 food-related programs. In 2014, Foodlink distributed over 18 million pounds of food including 3.6 million pounds of produce, offered more than 200 nutrition education courses, and created new access points for healthy foods in underserved communities.

Alpha Company supports Foodlink by organizing canned food drives on the four NROTC Rochester campuses: University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Brockport, and St. John Fisher College. The food drives take place on different weeks so each member can devote a good amount of time helping to advertise and participate in the volunteering event in order to make it as successful as possible. Members of Alpha Company collect cardboard boxes and place them around the campus. They also create flyers that advertise the food drive and hang them around the different campuses. The food drive lasts about a week and once it is done the boxes with the food are collected and then donated to Foodlink.

-MIDN 4/C Elizabeth Bova

MIDN Martinez Represents Bravo Company

On 24 October 2014 I volunteered at Monroe Community Hospital with the organization I am a part of called Soñar Despierto. It is an organization dedicated to transforming the lives of those who find themselves most vulnerable: children.

The organization’s mission is reflected in the following quote: "Muchos pasan la vida soñando grandes éxitos, pero pocos son quienes despiertos luchan con coraje por hacer sus sueños realidad."

Translated, the quote is as follows: “Many pass life dreaming of grand accomplishments, but few are those who fight courageously awake to make their dreams come true.”

On this specific date we worked with the mentally disabled because this group also adapts to specific situations in areas such as Rochester which has a large disabled and elderly community. We will be visiting the hospital every month and taking part in activities with the patients regardless of their age or disability. On this date, we performed dances for the older mentally disabled. Although some of the patients were non-verbal, they reacted positively to our performance. Other activities included music charades, doing the macarana, password, and actual charades, all of which resonated with the patients.

-MIDN 4/C Steven Martinez
Charlie Company Makes a New Habitat

Charlie Company participates in a large number of community service projects. Both as individuals and as a company, we work hard to give back to the community of Rochester and our hometowns. Although our work efforts span all over the City of Rochester and abroad, one service organization was chosen by our company to focus our work on as a group. This organization is Habitat for Humanity. The Habitat for Humanity International organization was founded in 1976. Today, Habitat for Humanity is a recognized world leader in addressing the issues of poverty housing throughout the world.

Habitat for Humanity holds the mission of demonstrating love for fellow individuals, advocating for affordable housing, promoting dignity and hope, and supporting sustainable and transformational development. “We view our work as successful when it transforms lives and promotes positive and lasting social, economic and spiritual change within a community”. The Midshipmen of Charlie Company do their part in supporting this organization by volunteering their time to build houses. The Midshipmen volunteer efforts help Habitat for Humanity provide homes to those in need regardless of race, religion or any other difference.

-MIDN 4/C Emily Ebersole

Delta Company Goes to the Dogs

Could you imagine living your life on the day-to-day, not knowing if you will get food or water or even make it until morning? Unfortunately, many cats and dogs face this harsh truth. Luckily for these pets, groups like Scottsville Veterinary Hospital and Pet Adoptions are there to help. This group takes in cats and dogs off the streets, from shelters, owners, and places that they are just not welcomed. With the belief that every animal deserves a loving forever home, Scottsville makes sure to provide opportunities for each furry friend to find their new, loving family. And with Scottsville’s state-of-the-art veterinary hospital, all of these animals are given the utmost care until they are adopted.

So how do volunteers help? Delta Company visits every Saturday to assist in the day-to-day operations at Scottsville. Once each Midshipman fills out a volunteer application, they are allowed to head into the kennel and start playing with these loving friends. Volunteers do activities such as exercising and socializing the pets at Scottsville. These animals are locked in a kennel all day, and Midshipman allow each one to get out and stretch their legs and have fun. And just as each Midshipman brightens the day of a Scottsville pet, each pet brightens the day of the individual Midshipmen.

-MIDN 4/C Jacob Tyson
When was the last time you were motivated during your morning commute? Especially when one lane of traffic was shut down? Almost everyone probably has the same response for this question. But for members of the Rochester community, their response would be “just a few weeks ago.”

On Veterans Day, the University of Rochester’s Naval ROTC Unit, along with the Rochester Institute of Technology’s Air Force and Army ROTC Units, participated in a joint operation. Meeting in the early morning at Fauver Stadium, the three Battalions formed up and prepared themselves for the mission ahead. The mission was simple but powerful. We would run from the University of Rochester to the Greater Rochester Veterans Memorial located on 1440 South Avenue for our annual Veterans Day Memorial Run.

The column was led by a Midshipman carrying Old Glory and the flags of the respective branches carried by various members of each Battalion. The flags were followed by Army Cadets, Navy Midshipmen, Air Force Cadets, and finally Veterans and others from the local Rochester community. As we ran, each Battalion yelled their own cadences, waking up the City of Rochester and giving those on their morning commute another bolt of energy.

Even then, when the three branches were one team, with one mission, competition was inevitable. Our Unit, the smallest of the three, was the loudest by far. None of the Navy Midshipmen can recall hearing the Army cadences, and until the end of the run we almost forgot that Air Force Cadets were behind us. However, we as a Battalion might have been slightly biased in our judgment of which service generated the most noise.

Finally, we hit our destination. The column planted our flags and we gathered on the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Overlook. There to greet us were several local Veterans who are pivotal to Veterans initiatives throughout the community. Speaking words of wisdom, they thanked us for our commitment and encouraged us to never forget our predecessors or their sacrifices.

We walked through the Memorial’s “Walk of Honor.” A seemingly endless line of bollards were spaced along the pathway. Each bollard had two small plaques. The first plaque was the branch insignia of the service that the service member had served in. Underneath was the name and day that the service member gave the ultimate sacrifice to his or her country. These men and women were exclusively from the greater Rochester area.

As we finished our walk through the Memorial, we shook hands with those Veterans around us. We formed up ready to begin the trek home. Initially, as we began the run, we were still in a state of reflection but as we started moving, our voices grew louder. The time for quiet reflection was behind us. It was time to share our pride.

As we ran, faces in cars switched from annoyance at being held up to looks of delight as we pounded down the road. We waved and shouted and the waves were returned. That day no longer became just another day in our lives and those around us. Veterans Day truly became a day to remember, to reflect, and to be proud.

-MIDN 4/C Arthur Busick
University of Rochester’s NROTC Battalion had two squads compete in Squad Basic at the Cornell Drill Competition this November. MIDN 1/C Nysenbaum and MIDN 3/C Loder each led a team. The teams trained for weeks prior to the event and focused especially on mastering columns and rifle movement timing, using M16s. Both performed outstandingly during the routine even though the members of the squads were moved around because of last minute changes. Regardless, the teams quickly adapted and completed successful performances that unfortunately did not place, but did contribute to the Battalion’s success and our overall win.

-MIDN 3/C Miranda Jackman

Cornell University Invitational Drill Competition (CUIDC)

Platoon Basic

4/C Midshipmen, from the day Orientation begins, wonder about the lessons of discipline that await them. One of the biggest challenges and goals of freshman training is to learn how to follow and to be part of a team that cannot survive without everyone fully investing. In the case of Platoon Basic, it is a long, arduous adventure of early mornings that forms the tough skin on our hands that learn to wield the M16 with such perfection. This year’s 4/C Platoon Basic team overcame obstacles together, helped one another learn the skill, and proved that they are all capable of unparalleled leadership in the near future. As far as NROTC Rochester is concerned, the Platoon Basic team excelled when the time came. Facing challenging opponents at Cornell University Invitational Drill Competition such as United States Military Academy, NY Maritime, and RPI, the team performed an almost perfect routine, overflowing with confidence and extreme intensity. Looking back, all the toilsome practice was worth it as we walked off the Barton Hall drill deck with grins of success. Congratulations to the Rochester 4/C and MIDN 3/C Baum for stepping up to the challenge of perfection.

-MIDN 2/C Timothy Cooper

Squad Basic

University of Rochester’s NROTC Battalion had two squads compete in Squad Basic at the Cornell Drill Competition this November. MIDN 1/C Nysenbaum and MIDN 3/C Loder each led a team. The teams trained for weeks prior to the event and focused especially on mastering columns and rifle movement timing, using M16s. Both performed outstandingly during the routine even though the members of the squads were moved around because of last minute changes. Regardless, the teams quickly adapted and completed successful performances that unfortunately did not place, but did contribute to the Battalion’s success and our overall win.

-MIDN 3/C Miranda Jackman
Platoon Trick

This year we began with several Midshipmen for whom Trick Drill was a completely new concept and experience. Putting in 4 hours a week and an additional 14 hours two weeks prior to the Cornell Drill Competition, it goes without saying that the volunteers for Platoon Trick were self-motivated and determined to succeed. Through many early mornings we managed to become very productive in developing ourselves, from the bottom up, beginning individually with the basics, such as rifle spins and tosses, all the way to a coordinated and time sensitive team routine. With a few bumps and bruises along the way, I think I can speak for all in saying that this fall semester has proved very rewarding in regards to our progress with Trick Drill. This was confirmed in our placement at the annual Cornell Drill Competition, for which our 3rd place victory earned NROTC Rochester those crucial two points enabling us to take home the overall winner's trophy for the entire competition. NROTC Rochester is very proud of how we pulled together as a team, which reflects very well on our trick captains, MIDN Campbell and MIDN Smith. Despite our few numbers and very scarce experience, our team captains and MIDN Hubbs kept morale high, and were responsible for the team’s forward progress throughout the semester, as well as for our achievements at Cornell.

-MIDN 3/C Kathelyn Murphy

Two Man Trick

This year the Two Man trick drill representing the University of Rochester was performed by MIDN 2/C Ryan Hubbs and myself, MIDN 1/C Jamal Campbell. We prepared for the competition by having drill practice every morning on Mondays and Wednesdays for about an hour. This year we created a new routine taking ideas from the discipline of the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Team and the traditional moves from NROTCU Rochester. We ran into a couple challenges along the way, but were triumphant in the end. We were both participating in two other drill events, Platoon Trick Drill and Squad Drill, which took up a lot of our practice time in the mornings. Nonetheless we were able to utilize rare opportunities for extra practice sessions. At the CUIDC, we were able to execute and earn Third Place for Rochester. The hard work and early mornings paid off!

-MIDN 1/C Jamal Campbell

Color Guard

The Color Guard's job is to present the National Ensign in a ceremonial manner. The Color Guard this year consisted of MIDN 2/C Curtis, MIDN 1/C Wieber, MIDN 1/C Dudek, MIDN 2/C Strom and MIDN 3/C Tucker. The Color Guard is known for performing well at Cornell and other events around the Rochester area. This year was no exception. The Color Guard contributed its part to the Drill Competition by bringing home the Third Place Trophy. However, such success did not come naturally. The color guard practices at 0545 ever Monday and Tuesday morning and is guided by the experience of Color Guard Commander MIDN 1/C Wieber and past Color Guard member MIDN 1/C Tanner.

-MIDN 3/C Matthew Tucker

From left to right: MIDN 2/C Curtis, 1/C Wieber, 2/C Strom 1/C Dudek, and 3/C Tucker

MIDN 2/C Hubbs (left) and MIDN 2/C Campbell (right)
The Ironman event at Cornell is a competition that tests multiple domains of fitness. The three Midshipmen selected to compete on behalf of our Battalion were MIDN 3/C Tucker, MIDN 2/C Stalzer, and MIDN 1/C Nysenbaum. The contest consisted of five events: pull-ups, push-ups, sit-ups, 500m swim and a 3-mile run. Any Midshipmen that can max 4 out of 5 of the events qualifies for "superman points", which are points added to his or her final score for any exercise performed beyond the max. For example, the max amount of pull-ups for males is 20, but if a Midshipman does 25 pull-ups and maxes 4 other events then he will get 25 additional points (5 points for every pull-up over 20). However, receiving these superman points proved to be a challenge for all competitors this year. Most competitors were able to max the push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups, but no one maxed the swim and only Rochester maxed the run. Rochester fielded the winning Ironman team this year, with MIDN 2/C Stalzer being the only Midshipman to qualify for superman points.

-MIDN 2/C Brittany Stalzer

This year’s 10K team consisted of MIDN 1/C Dudek, 1/C Palmiter, and 3/C Tucker, as well as MIDN 3/C Boullianne and MIDN 4/C Nicholas. The race course consisted of 6.5 scenic laps around Beebe Lake, near the heart of Cornell University’s main campus. The weather was brisk with the temperature hovering at about 22 degrees as a dusting of snow covered the trail. The cold weather did not deter the runners, however, as many raced in simply shorts and a long-sleeved shirts. The event was scored like a cross-country event: each team was comprised of 5 scoring members, the finishing place numbers of each member were added together to give the teamscore, the lowest scoring team won. Rochester had three runners in the top five, with Midshipmen Boullianne, Nicholas, and Palmiter scoring first, fourth, and fifth, respectively. Midshipmen Dudek and Tucker rounded out Rochester with eight and eleventh place finishes, respectively. This gave Rochester a winning score of 29 points, besting out competitors RPI and Villanova.

-MIDN 1/C Daniel Palmiter

The CUIDC 4x400 team this year consisted of MIDN 2/C Strom, MIDN 3/C Loder and Boullianne, and MIDN 4/C Martinez. The 4x400 is always the last event in the competition and arguably the most motivating, as all of the schools cheer for their respective teams. Naturally, NROTC Rochester is always the loudest and proudest. Despite being a comparatively small Battalion, we remain extremely competitive in all of our Military Excellence Competition events, especially the 4x400 race. Despite having no practice in baton hand-offs and MIDN Boulliane running (and winning) a 10k race earlier in the day, our 4x400 team still managed to secure the second place position and add yet another trophy to our collection back in Rochester.

-MIDN 2/C Corey Strom
Swim Competition

The Cornell Swim Competition was a trying yet rewarding experience for all of the Midshipmen participating in the event. Representing Rochester on the team was MIDN 2/C Clark, MIDN 3/C Leach, MIDN 1/C Thibodeau, MIDN 1/C Nysenbaum, and MIDN 4/C Gonta. I am not phenomenal at drill, so I figured if I was not going to be a big help in platoon basic, I better help somewhere else. I was excited to be swimming. It was interesting to see some of the upperclassmen as equals for a little while, as it felt like we shared equal responsibility. We took second place in the swim, but we got over it quickly when we found out we won the entire event. We all only had a week of preparation before Cornell, so with a few months before Villanova, we’ll be ready to win the swim in April.

-MIDN 4/C Mitchell Gonta

Midshipman of the Month

September Midshipman of the Month
MIDN 3/C Baum
University of Rochester
International Relations

October Midshipman of the Month
MIDN 2/C Strom
Rochester Institute of Technology
Business Management
Looking Back on the Semester
NROTC Rochester has experienced a fantastic semester. From the classroom to the PT field to Cornell, there has been a lot to look back on. I hope that all of you have enjoyed this semester’s Ironclad. If there are any questions you may have or information you may want on upcoming events (Villanova Drill Competition in April) please contact the number below or send us an email.

Thank you all for your continued support!

-MIDN 2/C Ryan Hubbs, USNR
Communications Officer, Naval ROTC Rochester
The University of Rochester’s Sea and Anchor Detail is a university recognized Student Activity organization that plays an integral role in the development of NR0TC Rochester Midshipmen. The club had a very busy and successful semester promoting the naval service and raising funds to support activities not funded by the Unit’s appropriated budget.

Through the Sea and Anchor Detail’s effort, NR0TC Rochester was able to participate in (AND WIN!) the Cornell University Invitational Drill Competition, support numerous service projects throughout the Rochester community, and conduct a Battalion Mess Night to commemorate the successful Fall Semester. Activities coming up in the Spring Semester that will require the financial support of the Sea and Anchor Detail include the Villanova University Military Excellence Competition, the Joint Warrior Day competition with the AR0TC and AFR0TC units at RIT, and the annual Navy Ball recognizing the commissioning class of 2015.

Please visit our website at HTTP://WWW.NAV.ROCHESTER.EDU/ to learn more about our Unit and the Sea and Anchor Detail.

Thank you!