

The Lookout



February 2019 Issue



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MIDN 1/C Raney, Golf Company Commander, inspects MIDN 1/C Hennie-Roed.

Photo courtesy of MIDN 4/C Stearns

Georgia Tech NROTC Conducts Uniform Inspection

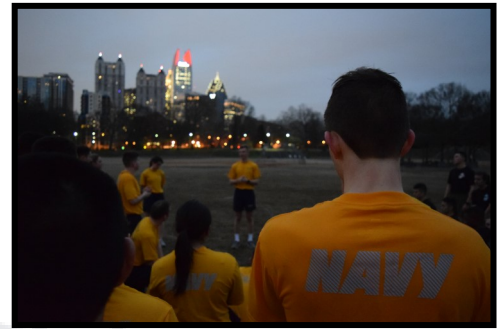
MIDN 4/C Tanksley

On Tuesday February 26 , Georgia Tech battalion participated in a service dress blue uniform inspection. It was conducted at the beginning of drill period by battalion company commanders. The purpose was to make sure all of the midship-

men’s uniforms were squared away for the Naval Ball on Friday, since the uniform of the day for the upcoming event was service dress blues. Every midshipman was required to have their shoes shined, blouse and trousers free of lint and stains, insignia in the correct plac-

es, and of course, know their general knowledge.

Atlanta Region NROTC Consortium PT



Georgia Tech Battalion Athletics Officer MIDN 2/C Guild makes closing remarks after consortium PT.

Photos courtesy of MIDN 4/C Stearns

MIDN 4/C Abusaid

Early Wednesday morning on February 27th, the Georgia Tech Naval ROTC Battalion mustered up with the Morehouse Battalion at Piedmont Park for Consortium PT. There, the Atlanta Consortium mixed together into six groups based on running ability and conducted a “fun run”- periods of high intensity running interspersed by calisthenics. These groups were composed of Navy and Marine options from both

Morehouse and Georgia Tech Battalions. Not only was this a great opportunity for physical training, it was an even better opportunity for the consortium to bond as a whole. At the end of the PT, the battalions regrouped for an Atlanta Consortium photo. This was a great way to kick off the week of the upcoming Naval Ball.



GT NROTC Color Guard in the community

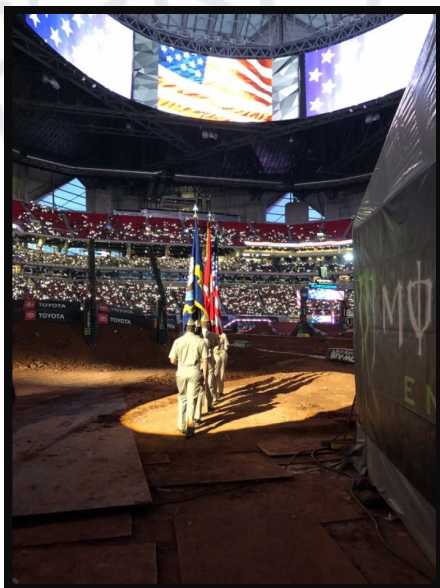


Photo courtesy of MIDN 3/C Maldonado



Photo courtesy of MIDN 3/C Maldonado

Georgia Tech Naval ROTC Color Guard presents the colors at Monster Jam under the lights of Mercedes-Benz Stadium.



Surface Warfare & Ship Selection



MIDN 1/C Sidhu

MIDN 3/C Ward

The *Lookout* conducted a Q&A with Battalion Master Chief MIDN 1/C Tara Sidhu about her recent experience with ship selection and her journey ahead as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO).

Lookout: What made you want to be a Surface Warfare Officer?

I always knew I wanted to be a SWO, it's why I joined the Navy in the first place. In fact, I didn't realize naval aviation was much of an opportunity until I came to Naval ROTC, and submarines never tempted me. Initially, I was intrigued by the world travel opportunities and warfighting capabilities,

employing lethal means from the middle of the ocean. Additionally, I felt more comfortable knowing what the ships "do" in the battle space—completing patrols, firing missiles, and representing the United States around the world. The more I was exposed to the surface community, particularly cruisers and destroyers, the more enthusiastic I became about the mission set, whether it be anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, or air warfare. I also enjoy the feeling of driving a ship in the open ocean; it gives a unique sense of freedom, similar to driving alone on a desert highway.

Lookout: How does ship selection work from the midshipman point of view?



Everything you do is recorded and graded over your time in Naval ROTC. The Navy then has an algorithm that calculates a ranking of all surface warfare selected midshipmen from across the country. Ship

selection itself is a three-day process. During the time leading up to it, you do your research on ships, deployment schedules, and homeports. On the day you select, you join a Google hangout where you chat with your detailer and other midshipmen who are ranked above and below you. There is a live list of open billets that updates as midshipmen pick their ships, and when your time comes, you refresh the list and tell the detailer what you want based on what is open.

Lookout: Where will you be stationed? Aboard which ship? Why did you choose the ship you did?

I'll be in San Diego, CA, on the **USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70)**. I've always preferred cruisers and destroyers over amphibious or littoral combat ships for their fast-paced community and interesting mission set. Although I was initially more focused on choosing a destroyer, with a cruiser being my second choice, as I got further into the ship selection process, I realized that my ultimate priority was the location of my homeport. I'm very comfortable with cruisers, as I spent both of my midshipman summer cruises on

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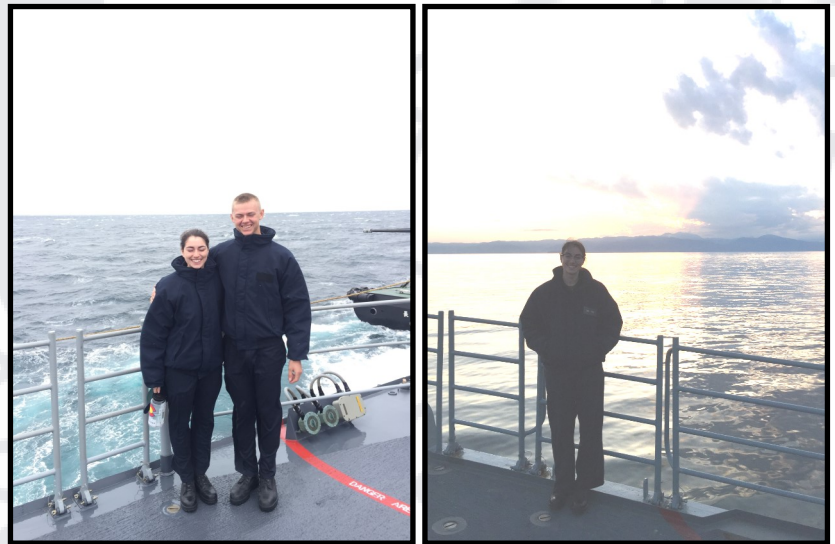
cruisers in Yokosuka, so I'm excited to report to a ship that I'm already pretty familiar with. And of course, you can't beat beautiful San Diego for your first homeport.

Lookout: Do you have any tips for aspiring midshipmen on how to get their first choice of location/ship?

Ultimately you can only control so much, and no one knows what really goes into the ranking procedure. Excel at the factors that are within your control: get good grades and make NROTC a priority as far as college life goes. Your aptitude score and unit involvement will impact your ranking as well. If you love the ship that you're on for 1/C cruise, make the CO aware that you are interested in 'blue chipping' and returning to the ship as an ensign.

Lookout: Any thoughts on what your first division officer tour will bring?

It will be challenging for sure, trying to simultaneously earn my Surface Warfare Officer pin and lead a division for the first time. I think it will be fun, and I'm excited to be around other people who are enthusiastic about surface warfare. Being on a cruiser and having an O-6 as the Commanding Officer should also provide more leverage for some interesting and exciting opportunities.



Photos courtesy of MIDN 1/C Sidhu

MIDN 1/C Sidhu during her summer cruise.

Meet New Sophomore Advisor LT Purcell



LT Purcell

MIDN 3/C

Ward

The *Lookout* conducted an interview with LT Purcell, who will serve as the new Sophomore/Aviation Advisor and Naval Science Instructor, to learn more about his background and outlook.

Lookout: Can you give a brief career summary?

I commissioned via Naval ROTC out of Georgia Tech, selected for Aviation, became a Student Naval Aviator, and completed initial training in Pensacola, Florida. I then trained with the RED KNIGHTS of VT-3 in Milton, Florida. Upon selection for rotary wing aircraft, I completed advanced helicopter training, earning my wings in November 2014. I reported to the fleet replacement squadron HSM-

40 in Mayport, Florida, eventually joining the GRANDMASTERS of HSM-46 flying the MH-60R still out of Mayport.

Lookout: What made you want to come to Georgia Tech Naval ROTC?

I'm familiar with and enjoyed my time in Naval ROTC, and want to pursue a Master of Business Administration here at Tech.

Lookout: What do you hope to teach/ingrain in the midshipmen you teach and mentor?

I hope to teach midshipmen a framework for making good decisions. I also intend to ensure mastery in the classes I teach- Naval History and Naval Weapons. I want everyone who leaves the Georgia Tech battalion to be competent, and be informed about every community.

Lookout: What is your advice to midshipmen hoping to be selected for aviation?

Study for ASTB (Aviation Selection Test Battery), perform well in school, and try hard. Hard work will go far in the aviation community; put in

the time.

Lookout: How has taking on a professorship role been thus far?

I am familiarizing myself with the curriculum and have enjoyed teaching. It is similar to teaching junior pilots in the fleet, just now the topics are more academic.

