

# The LOOKOUT

March 2020 Issue



General John "Jay" Raymond speaks to Georgia Tech's ROTC cadets and midshipmen about the newly formed Space Force. (article on page 2)





## General Raymond: Chief of Space Operations

MIDN 4/C McElligott

On February 24, 2020, all of Georgia Tech's ROTC branches were treated to a rare brief by the newly appointed Chief of Space Operations, General John Raymond, on the recently created US Space Force. General Raymond himself is a graduate of Clemson University's Air Force ROTC program, class of 1984. He was first stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base with the 321st Strategic Missile Wing, later moving to both England and the Pentagon where he worked with Air Force Space Command for many years, excelling at the highest levels of command and control. General Raymond was appointed Space Force's first Chief of Space Operations on December 20, 2019 by President Donald Trump. As of now, General Raymond is the only member of the US Space Force, until a senior enlisted service member is sworn in. In his brief, General Raymond discussed the history (albeit brief) of the Space Force, from its beginnings as Space Command within the Air Force to its eventual separation in late 2019, analogizing the modern Space Force-Air Force relationship to the Navy-

Marine Corps. The necessity for the Space Force to become its own branch was recognized in 2007, when China destroyed one of their own satellites, creating thousands of pieces of harmful debris in the public domain of near-Earth space. This temporarily halted both commercial and scientific satellite work, causing the US government to realize that space was the newest and most volatile warfighting domain. If the US wanted to continue its forward presence across the globe, it would absolutely require the security of space. General Raymond then highlighted how the rest of the US military would greatly benefit from the addition of a sixth branch. Primarily, the Air Force would be able to refocus its efforts on other critical areas, leaving the massively intricate combatant command of Space Operations to its own branch. The Navy, Army, and Marine Corps would have assurance in their satellites being operational and could leave launch/maintenance to a separate, more specialized entity. Critical lines of communication which

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rely on satellite technology across not just the entire military, but the government and the private sector as well would be protected. General Raymond made very clear the importance of space to not just Naval operations, but everyday civilian life as well. Not wanting to deprive another branch of quality leadership, General Raymond stated that the Space Force plans to find its senior leadership by asking experienced leaders in the private sector to come aboard through some type of accessions program and make the Space Force's foundations rock-solid. The Space Force also already has some junior leadership coming aboard - Georgia Tech's Air Force ROTC program has one Senior commissioning into the Space Force this summer. General Raymond closed out the briefing by presenting, among other branches' distinguished cadets, Midshipman 2/C Nguyen with a Challenge Coin, for showing exemplary leadership in the battalion. The Georgia Tech NROTC battalion is exceedingly grateful for the opportunity to hear from such a distinguished and trusted leader as General Raymond. The Space Force has a future written in the stars!



## Meet the BN XO: MIDN 1/C Rao

MIDN 4/C Tenenbaum

The Lookout sat down with BN XO MIDN 1/C Rao to better understand his thought process for making this semester successful for the unit. With the many responsibilities of such a billet in mind, MIDN Rao is working hard to ensure that he is a voice for the department heads to ensure that the battalion settles into the new structure and flourishes this semester. He is especially excited about the leadership lectures and Dining In, a special tradition for the 1/C, this semester.

Each situation requires a different leadership style and each leader has their own touch. MIDN Rao has been working with the Department heads with

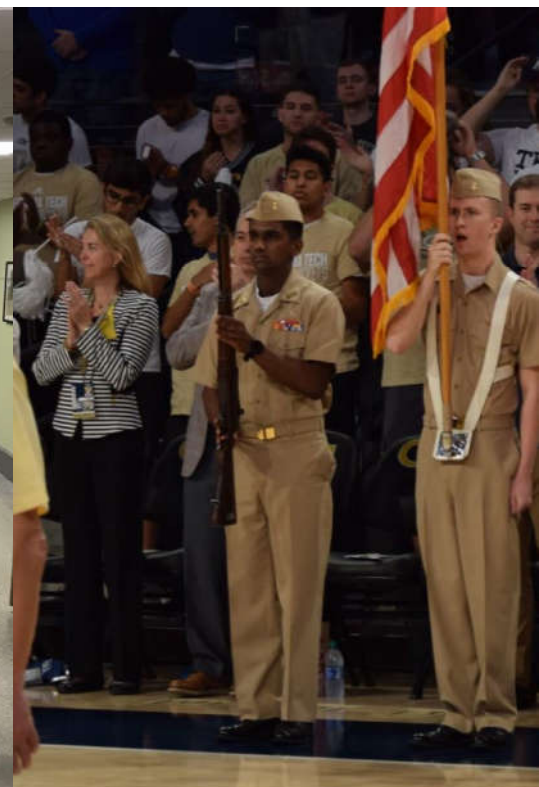
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projects such as updating the Academics Policy to better suit the needs of the Midshipmen. While most of what MIDN Rao does is behind the scenes being a conduit for information to pass between battalion staff and permanent staff, he has also been changing more prominent parts of our battalion. A well known fact within the battalion, MIDN Rao started out in the AFROTC program and later transferred to the Navy, one of the structural elements of their program that he appreciates is the constant evaluation they undergo. MIDN Rao and the rest of the leadership in the battalion have combated the lack of evaluation with a surprise uniform inspection and the promise of more to come.

Most people have role models that they base their leadership style on. MIDN Rao explained to the Lookout that one of the struggles he has had to face is flushing out his own style. MIDN Rao said, "I often look at the way others lead and I compare myself to them. I think, 'oh, that's how you are supposed to do it'". One of the hardest lessons he has learned is that there are many paths that all converge at the same location. MIDN Rao continues to flush out his leader-

ship style during this semester in order to be prepared to commission into the aviation community.

When questioned about the two leadership characteristics that he felt were the most important to emulate, MIDN Rao responded with certainty that it is essential for leaders to be able to respectfully question authority and to push to create a higher standard. Although MIDN Rao believes that the respectful questioning of authority and pushing to create a higher standard are non-negotiable, he also stresses the importance of empathy. MIDN Rao has focussed on empathising and getting to know the Midshipmen in this battalion. He feels that this is his role as a spring semester BN XO. MIDN Rao explained that, "In the fall, the leaders need to set the tone and get everyone, especially the 4/C, into the groove of ROTC, however the spring is more about mentorship and learning how to be an officer". That is one of the reasons that MIDN Rao has been actively working towards getting to know people in the battalion better. He hopes that he will leave a legacy of really caring about those that he leads.



# Strides for Success: Marathon PT

MIDN 4/C Sigut



On March 1, midshipmen from Marathon PT were a part of “America’s Marathon Weekend” in the heart of Atlanta. MIDN Webb, Rao, Boyer, Beck, Ward, Bowes, Williams, and Sigut all finished the full marathon, while MIDN Blackwell ran the half marathon. The events started and finished close to Georgia Tech’s campus in Centennial Olympic Park, where thousands of people gathered before sunrise the morning of to see what they were made of as they hit the course.

The Marathon PT midshipmen had been training since the beginning of the fall semester to accomplish their goals. On Monday evenings, they could be found on the track doing various speed workouts. They then pushed their limits on Friday mornings with long-distance runs. Starting off with their first run in September being only 3 miles long to their longest run in February of 20 miles and for each run in between, this group kept one foot in front of the other, eagerly awaiting the moment they would breeze across the finish line on race day.





## Atlanta Consortium Naval Ball

### MIDN 3/C Tanksley

The Naval Ball is one of the most exciting events for our midshipmen. It is a culmination of the hard work and dedication from the fall semester and a celebration of our achievements. The night is a chance for the midshipmen to get dressed to the nines, enjoy an evening of tradition, and celebrate the history of the service. Contrary to most other ROTC units, we do not call our ball a “birthday ball,” as it is done in February and is more of a “senior send off” celebration to recognize and celebrate our graduating seniors.

Kicking off the night, there is a cocktail hour for midshipmen to socialize, meet each other's dates, and converse with officers and staff in a more casual setting. After the cocktail hour, every midshipman except the seniors go through the proceeding line. This is a chance for each of them to introduce their date to the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and our guest speaker, Captain ‘Spider’ Jones who was a Naval Aviator, in a formal and professional way. Following the procession, we begin the ceremony to recognize naval traditions and teach midshipmen the importance of them. In honor of our graduating class, eight motivated midshipmen participate in the sword arch, in which every senior and their date walk under and are presented to the consortium and staff. The

color guard presents the colors to the backdrop of the national anthem. Following this, Anchors Aweigh and the Marine Corps hymn is played to remember our history and recognize esprit de corps. During the ceremony, the POW/MIA table is announced to recognize all of our fallen comrades who have been prisoners of war or gone missing in action. The sacrifices of these heroes are honored at every ball for the armed forces. Following this, our Commanding Officer, Captain Foege, closed out the ceremony by reflecting on the success of our consortium. As it was Captain Foege’s first Georgia Tech Naval Ball, he recognized the commitment that our midshipmen have displayed throughout the semester. He ended his remarks reflecting on the success of our seniors and the excitement of what's in store for our consortium.

Following the ceremony is a gourmet buffet-style dinner that is definitely one of the highlights of the night. After dinner, we have a tradition of senior superlatives. Every senior is recognized with a funny superlative that the battalion thinks represents them. They receive a plate with this superlative on it they either display proudly or display with their head hung out of embarrassment. Laughter fills the Biltmore ball-

room during this portion of the night. After the guest speaker shares their remarks, the dancing begins. Midshipmen and their dates dance the night away until the ball is over through line dances and dance circles, with many of them thinking they are better dancers than they really are. The mission of the Naval Ball is to familiarize midshipmen with how the

military environment conducts social gatherings, celebrate the graduating seniors, and the hard work of the consortium throughout the year, and to increase unit morale through a fun-filled evening. The consortium danced the night away, confirming that the mission was accomplished.

