

# THE LOOKOUT



September 2020

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Read about the 4/C's first day in the NROTC program, and how they were introduced to the Battalion.

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### Athletics Division Spotlight

The Lookout team interviewed MIDN 2/C Dee to find out how the Athletics Division plans to operate this Fall.

### Meet the 4/C

Get to know Georgia Tech NROTC's newest midshipmen, and hear their reasons for joining the program.



Captain Foege swears in the incoming Midshipmen in front of the O'Keefe Building on August 14, 2020.



## New Student Orientation

### MIDN 4/C Cochran

A sense of anticipation and uncertainty was in the air on August 13th at 0630, as all of the prospective 4/C Midshipmen made their way into the O'Keefe Building for New Student Orientation (NSO). Immediately, they were rushed to their assigned space and stood at the position of attention, which many of them learned on the spot. As they stood there sleepy and stressed, they were introduced to the customs and courtesies that are expected of them as midshipmen and were quizzed on the Midshipman Training Manual. This went on until Gunnery Sergeant Bush led uniform inventory. The midshipmen soon learned the importance of attention to detail as Gunnery Sergeant taught them how to wear the uniform properly, which involved detailed instructions on sleeve rolling and blousing trousers. This was followed by a quick demonstration of how to properly salute. The new midshipmen hung on to every word knowing that these skills would be vital in the future.

The new midshipmen were then sent into classrooms where they faced their first academic challenge. They took the knowledge exam, which tested the 4/C on information they were instructed to study over the summer including various core values, facts about leadership, and rank structures. Then it was time to eat, and a majority of the midshipmen were treated to their first MREs. It was definitely the first time in their lives that cold pasta and chicken noodle soup sounded appealing. The new midshipmen had already learned quite a bit, but they weren't done yet. Next the orientation moved outside, where the new 4/C were introduced to Close-Order Drill by Gunnery Sergeant Bush in the hot Atlanta sun. Taking a short break from the heat, the midshipmen went to the gym and bonded as a class. Then came an exciting game of Knockout Drill, an exercise in which the midshipmen

follow a series of drill commands and are eliminated if they make a mistake, similar to Simon Says. The midshipmen were then hurried back to the O’Keefe building and went right back to business; more knowledge, more yelling, and more standing at attention. Fortunately for them, that wrapped up the day’s intensity. Following an informative question and answer session with experienced midshipmen, the new 4/C went into the Joint For-

ces Auditorium and heard from Battalion Executive Officer Nguyen, Battalion Commanding Officer Newton, Major Pomeroy and Captain Foege, all of whom laid the groundwork for what was expected of the midshipmen for the next four years. The next day, the 4/C midshipmen returned to be officially sworn in by Captain Foege and took the first step towards becoming officers in the world’s finest Navy.





# Meet the BNCO: MIDN 1/C Newton

## MIDN 3/C Prabhuram

The Lookout team interviewed MIDN 1/C Newton, this semester's BNCO, to discuss herself and her plans for the battalion.

**Lookout:** *Tell us a bit about yourself.*

**MIDN 1/C Newton:** I'm Tyra Newton, a 4<sup>th</sup> year Mechanical Engineering major from Gainesville, GA, and this semester's Battalion Commanding Officer. In my free time, I like to independently study etymology and history, play tennis and cricket, and draw and write. Related to my major, I am interested in thermal, fluid and energy systems, and, consequently, I hope to indulge these interests as a Naval Reactors Engineer.

**Lookout:** *What is your vision for the battalion this semester and how do you plan to adapt around this new environment?*

**MIDN 1/C Newton:** COVID-19, I believe, is a test of our unit's ability to adapt and overcome any challenge both imagined and unimaginable. My vision for the battalion this semester is of a battalion that is cohesive despite the external forces that try to twist it in every direction, creative enough to circumvent any roadblock in the way, and safe enough to commission as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps at the end of the day. It's for this reason that I'm stressing three themes this semester: creativity, discipline, and safety. Creative in our methods, disciplined in our execution, and safe in the end.

**Lookout:** *What excites you the most about this semester?*

**MIDN 1/C Newton:** What excites me the most is operating



during the current pandemic. The hybrid format, while frustrating at times, has really opened avenues we haven't explored as a battalion. For example, as a unit we do plenty of paperwork, which isn't the most environmentally friendly thing to do. Now, due to social distancing guidelines, the Administration Department has come up with an impressive online system to submit paperwork and keep detailed records, which is something I hope we keep when this is all over. The future is digital.

**Lookout:** *What experiences in ROTC helped shape your leadership style and how do you plan to apply it in leading the battalion this semester?*

**MIDN 1/C Newton:** Three experiences shaped my leadership style: being Academics Officer my junior year, being a squad leader sophomore year, and summer cruises. Being a squad leader laid the foundation (looking out for the welfare of your people, small group management, mentorship);

summer cruise provided the context: in my second-class cruise on the USS Mobile Bay, I got to see how junior officers interact with their divisions and how they interact with their leadership, which was another tool for leadership toolbox, and being academics officer is where I applied these tools on a higher level, where I then learned the virtues of delegation and feedback.

**Lookout:** Any advice for the new 4/C and 3/C? Especially with all the COVID stuff in mind?

**MIDN 1/C Newton:** General advice: diversify your interests. ROTC should remain your priority but go out and join a club, do research, apply for an internship for the summer. These are great ways to meet new people outside of the ROTC bubble, people whom you might meet in future classes and study together with. When ROTC becomes overwhelming, and it might a few times, these interests are good stress relief. Pertaining to COVID-19,

my advice is to stay away from large gatherings. If you are a 3/C or a 4/C, you still have junior and senior year, at least, to go to big close quarters events. Don't stay inside all day either. Go for a run, have a few people that you can do things with.

**Lookout:** What situation was the greatest learning experience for you during these last 3 years?

**MIDN 1/C Newton:** Greatest learning experience was my 2<sup>nd</sup> class cruise. CORTRAMID was the most fun, but on my second-class cruise, I got to shadow a sonar tech on the second oldest cruiser in the Navy. I ate on the ship, slept on the ship, stood watch on the ship, drove the ship. I got to talk with the CO, department heads, and DIVOs, and I got a taste of what SWO life might be like if I took that route. It was a second-class cruise but a world-class experience and easily the most instructive experience I've had recently.



Midshipman 2/C Dee performs the 9/11 Battalion PT in honor of the firefighters who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks.

## Athletics Division Spotlight and Wellness Update

### MIDN 4/C Irish

The Lookout team sat down with MIDN 2/C Dee to discuss how the athletics department is helping MIDN improve their fitness this semester.

**Lookout:** Explain your role as the Athletics DIVO.

**MIDN 2/C Dee:** This semester, athletics is working a little different than it has in the past. Before, it was really the ATHO that leads battalion PT Tuesday morning, they write the PT, and they issue different resources for stretching, diet, and any athletics related questions get fielded to the athletics officer. We are also planning intramural sports and



**Check out MIDN 1/C Melina Maldonado's run around Piedmont Park logged using Strava**

leading Division (now chief) PTs. This semester MIDN 3/C Fain and I are trying to keep morale up and keep people motivated to workout and stay fit.

**Lookout:** *What plans do you have for the semester with regards to physical fitness/the PRT, and how are you adapting to the COVID situation?*

**MIDN 2/C Dee:** We have had to adapt by making nothing is in person, instituting both Navy and CDC guidance, and making it so that PT is not mandatory. With that said, MIDN are responsible for their health and well being so they can be ready for the PRT cycle this spring. We are passing out one Battalion PT a week which is one difficult workout that MIDN are expected to log on Strava. We are also working with the division chiefs to write good chief PTs that are completed on a MIDN's own time to prepare them for the PRT.

**Lookout:** *What procedures should MIDN follow for safety?*

**MIDN 2/C Dee:** For COVID, we are taking everything that the CDC says seriously. That means wearing masks, social

distancing, washing your hands often, and sleeping well to keep your immune system strong. For general athletic wellness, drink plenty of water, stay in shape, and do workouts early in the morning or later in evening to avoid heat related illness. When you feel exhausted, keep an eye on yourself. If you are with others, watch out for them as well. Also, look out for humidity. When it's humid you sweat more, which leads to faster dehydration and heat exhaustion.

**Lookout:** *How can MIDN maintain their mental health this semester? What resources is the battalion offering to assist MIDN with their mental health?*

**MIDN 2/C Dee:** Mental health is very important. If you aren't mentally in a good space then you can't pull your weight physically. It's very important to have a good support network, and ROTC obviously helps with that a lot. I also want to reiterate the importance of sleep; you need to sleep to have a good headspace. The Navy cares a lot about mental health and keeping sailors in good mental health. Every semester we have a permanent staff briefing on mental health, looking after your stress levels, and identifying warning signs.

It's also important to talk to those you are close with about whatever problems you are experiencing. Every permanent staff member is trained in dealing with mental health and sailor wellness. They are definitely great resources if you have any extenuating circumstances that make it difficult to stay in the right headspace and affect your performance.

# Meet the 4/C

## MIDN 4/C Ethan Antonio

**Hometown:** Crystal River, FL  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Surface Warfare  
**Favorite Activities:** Swimming, working out, playing video games, and reading.

*I joined NROTC to be able to serve in the Navy as an officer. I felt I had a duty to serve, and I feel that NROTC will give me an unparalleled experience and develop me not only as a young officer, but as a person.*



## MIDN 4/C Lukas Blake

**Hometown:** Lilburn, GA  
**School:** Georgia State  
**Major:** Biology  
**Desired Service Selection:** Marine Corps Ground Intel  
**Favorite Activities:** Hiking, weightlifting, and hunting.

*I joined the NROTC Program because I want to serve my country with people who share the same values as me.*



## MIDN 4/C Dylan Brennan

**Hometown:** Alpharetta, GA  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Computer Science  
**Desired Service Selection:** Naval Aviator  
**Favorite Activities:** Running, working out, and programming.

*I joined NROTC to develop myself physically, mentally, and morally with the goal of serving my country as a Naval Officer.*



## MIDN 4/C Ana Bruce

**Hometown:** Knoxville, TN  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Marine Option  
**Favorite Activities:** Soccer, reading, running, and adventuring.

*I wish to serve my country and work for people in a manner that requires my full strength and capabilities.*



## MIDN 4/C Samuel Cochran

**Hometown:** Charlotte, NC  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Nuclear Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Submarines  
**Favorite Activities:** Basketball, movies, and reading.

*I want to do something important with my life, and be part of something bigger than myself.*



## MIDN 4/C Ben Cuttino

**Hometown:** Lilburn, GA  
**School:** Georgia State  
**Major:** Undecided  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Hunting and fishing.

*Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to serve, and being in this program will help fulfill those goals.*





# Meet the 4/C

## MIDN 4/C Sophia Fleming

**Hometown:** Glen Head, NY  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Surface Warfare  
**Favorite Activities:** Playing lacrosse and painting.

*I have always had a passion for serving my community. After hearing many stories from my father and his time spent on active duty, I knew that NROTC was the path for me.*



## MIDN 4/C Chase Fletcher

**Hometown:** Warner Robbins, GA  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** International Affairs  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Music and video games.

*I want to become a commissioned officer in the US Navy, and learn invaluable leadership skills along the way.*



## MIDN 3/C Erin Greene

**Hometown:** Charleston, SC  
**School:** Georgia State  
**Major:** Biology  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Biking, hiking, and reading any book by Stephen King.

*I wanted to join the ROTC Program so I could continue to develop strong leadership skills and, hopefully, to get a shot at fulfilling my dream of becoming a Naval Aviator.*



## MIDN 4/C James Griffin

**Hometown:** Marietta, GA  
**School:** Kennesaw State  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Submarines  
**Favorite Activities:** Orienteering and scouting.

*I did JROTC for 4 years in high school and I loved the environment of it. The instructors helped me realize I wanted to serve in the Navy.*



## MIDN 4/C Madeline Irish

**Hometown:** Long Island, NY  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Aerospace Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Running and reading.

*I joined the NROTC Program because I want to serve my country alongside a group of motivated and like minded individuals. I also feel that NROTC will give me the opportunity to both challenge and improve myself.*



## MIDN 4/C Olivia Johnson

**Hometown:** Leonardtown, MD  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Aerospace Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Hiking, dancing, and traveling.

*I want to join the program to have unique travel and work experiences that civilians normally don't have access to. I also want to be a part of something in which I can help others and make a difference.*



# Meet the 4/C

## MIDN 4/C Todd Jokerst

**Hometown:** Dayton, OH  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Surface Warfare  
**Favorite Activities:** Working out, video games, and playing sports.

*I wanted to join the program because I believe the Navy will help me mature as a person. This will help me be a better influence on the people I work with, so we can get the job done to the best of our ability.*



## MIDN 4/C Austin Jones

**Hometown:** Monument, CO  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Sand volleyball and working out.

*All my family served, its in my blood. I believe everyone has a duty to serve their country. Not to mention, it has been my dream since I was a kid.*



## MIDN 4/C Mitchell Kunkel

**Hometown:** Canton, GA  
**School:** Kennesaw State  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Surface Warfare  
**Favorite Activities:** Driving, mechanic work, computer building, gaming, and reading.

*I want to serve my country and be a part of an organization that is bigger than myself and is making an impact on the world.*



## MIDN 4/C Christopher Lucyk

**Hometown:** Lincroft, NJ  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Lacrosse, sailing, and spending time with friends.

*I joined because I want to serve and defend our country and protect people around the world. I also want to lead those who have a common goal of service to our nation.*



## MIDN 4/C Martin Pesut

**Hometown:** Virginia Beach, VA  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Aerospace Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Golf, eating, and video games.

*I want to commission as an officer in the Navy.*



## MIDN 3/C Rishikesh Prabhuram

**Hometown:** Johns Creek, GA  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Aerospace Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Basketball, reading, and singing.

*I want to join the NROTC program because it will help me develop the discipline, leadership ability, and mental toughness needed to lead sailors in the fleet. I chose the Navy specifically due to the many technical career choices that are available.*



# Meet the 4/C

## MIDN 4/C Jonathan Rentfro

**Hometown:** Bakersfield, CA  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Hunting, fly fishing, and blacksmithing.

*I want to fly in the Navy and ensure that Americans can live free for generations to come.*



## MIDN 4/C Anthony Senft

**Hometown:** East Islip, NY  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Submarines  
**Favorite Activities:** Surfing, working out, and reading.

*I knew I wanted to serve in the military and becoming a Naval Officer allowed for so much flexibility in terms of the jobs that are available. I saw NROTC as the best way to get a top tier education both in Chemical Engineering and in the qualities required to be an effective naval leader.*



## MIDN 4/C Dominick Stewart

**Hometown:** Orlando, FL  
**School:** Georgia State  
**Major:** Physics  
**Desired Service Selection:** Navy Nuclear  
**Favorite Activities:** Guitar, gym, and shooting.

*I always wanted to join the Navy and I always wanted to go to college. NROTC gave me the opportunity to do so while learning physics.*



## MIDN 4/C Avery Williams

**Hometown:** Marietta, GA  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Mathematics  
**Desired Service Selection:** Submarines or Nuclear Surface Warfare  
**Favorite Activities:** Writing, skateboarding, and physical fitness.

*I want to make a difference by serving the worlds finest Navy at one of the finest NROTC programs.*



## MIDN 4/C Ryan Wittleder

**Hometown:** Long Island, NY  
**School:** Georgia Tech  
**Major:** Aerospace Engineering  
**Desired Service Selection:** Aviation  
**Favorite Activities:** Playing guitar, listening to music, running, and gaming.

*To travel the world in support of the greatest country in the world, to follow in the footsteps of my family members, and to find purpose through service.*



## Check us out on Social Media!

Want to keep up with GTNROTC? Follow our social media accounts to find out more about our midshipmen and their commitment to becoming future Naval Officers.



**Instagram:** @gt\_nrotc

**Twitter:** @GTNROTC

**Facebook:** @GTNROTC