

# February Newsletter



Dear Friends and Family,

It is my pleasure to bring you the accounts of the Duke NROTC battalion that have occurred throughout February for Spring Semester 2014. This past month emphasized preparation for upcoming events as well as the celebration of time-honored naval traditions. Midshipmen have been settling into their new responsibilities and leading their fellow midshipmen to be active in a variety of ways. This past month has stressed the importance of organization in battalion events and midshipmen have been playing an active part in the community both on and off campus.



Duke midshipmen practicing drill in preparation for competition.

One of Duke NROTC's most recognizable contributions to campus life is to present the colors during the national anthem at sporting events. The Color Guard has been kept busy. Additionally, midshipmen have been preparing for an upcoming Drill

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competition against the other units in the consortium, hoping to follow up on last semester's success at Sea Trials. Students have also been participating in Intra-mural soccer on campus, a unifying event for the battalion which gives midshipmen the chance to show some Navy pride. Midshipmen are also involved off-campus such as participation in projects with Habitat for Humanity to volunteer their services to help the community. Another notable event was Dining-In, a time honored tradition for 1/C midshipmen to dress formally while still speaking casually with the active-duty advisors who have been guiding their progression to becoming naval officers.



1/C midshipmen Dining-In as they come closer to the end of their time with the battalion

Just as the Fleet regularly sees its sailors continue their careers, the battalion will soon say goodbye to LT Donnelly as he prepares to go back to the Fleet. Taking over his responsibilities in the battalion is LT Bloomfield, a naval aviator who graduated from Duke. LT Donnelly has served as a professor of naval science for the past three years and was instrumental

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in the development of midshipmen at Duke. We hope to carry on the tradition and the model he has set for all midshipmen in the battalion.

Respectfully,

L. N. RODRIGUEZ

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