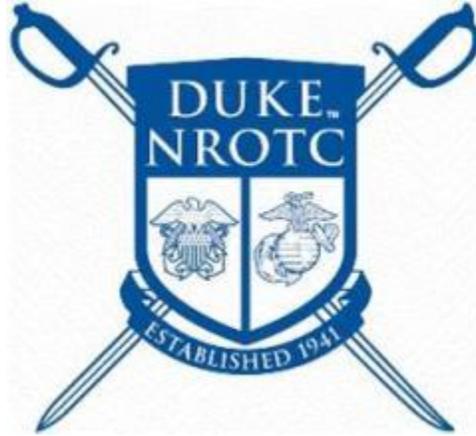# January Newsletter

Dear Friends and Family,

It is my pleasure to bring you the accounts of the Duke NROTC battalion that have occurred throughout January for Spring Semester 2014. This past month has placed a major emphasis on the battalion getting right back to its normal activities, with midshipmen rising to take new responsibilities to challenge themselves and their peers. As with every semester, many Midshipmen take designated billets with responsibilities that practice their organization and allow them to practice leadership. This semester, MIDN 1/C Christopher Debarge serves as the Battalion Commander after his exceptional service last semester as Executive officer. Serving in the Executive Officer position this semester is MIDN 2/C Tunick.

One of the most important aspects of being a midshipman is maintaining high grades, no small feat for students trying to balance their responsibilities as students and future leaders of the Navy. Despite this, the battalion reached exceptional

Pictured above are some of the midshipmen who earned awards for their achievements for the previous semester.

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achievements in grades for fall of 2013, with the Battalion GPA rising to a high of 3.38. This is part of a continuing trend for the battalion to have an increasing GPA that we will hopefully continue into this semester.

Now that the 4/C midshipmen have gotten their bearings, the Battalion is now preparing for the End of Year Exercise. This simulation puts to practice the knowledge that all midshipmen have gained throughout their classes; testing organization, knowledge, and professionalism. The Battalion has been separated into two components, Paladin and Reaper, whose members gather information on different naval platforms. On a sadder note, this will be the final semester for our 1/C midshipmen. As we get closer to the end of the semester, we are both excited and sad to see them move closer to commissioning and service in the Fleet.

Very respectfully

L. N. RODRIGUEZ

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