



Fall 2013 1 MC

“The strength of the wolf is the pack, and the strength of the pack is the wolf.”

The semester hit the ground running with new student orientation. The new 4/C Midshipmen were welcomed aboard with a very different NSO than any others in recent memory. Despite this being the first time this training was conducted and it being very new, the student staff alongside the active duty executed as expected, integrating the new students into the Battalion for their first semester at college.

The Battalion participated in multiple major events over the course of the semester. For the first time, the three schools across the consortium participated in a challenge for the 4/C named sea trials.

The freshman competed in drill, knowledge, PT, an LRC, and an inspection. The event brought most Midshipmen in the battalion out on a Saturday to support our teams. Although we did not win, we will



next Fall. The Battalion also celebrated the Navy and Marine Corps birthdays in style at our birthday ball held across the consortium. The ball provided a reward to the Midshipmen for volunteering their Saturdays to sell merchandise at the Wolfpack football games as well as a chance to be involved in the rich traditions of Naval service.

After leading the Battalion through an excellent semester, MIDN Ransom turned over command to MIDN Fuquea as the Battalion Commander on December 4th. The ceremony began with a speech by Captain Wright about the position of Commanding Officer and the responsibility that goes along with it. One of the key points was that the position is passed instantaneously between the two with no overlap of responsibility. This ensures that there is always someone accountable for and in command of the unit and that there is no lapse in execution of duties. This is closely related to the second major point, that there is not a ‘new’ Commanding Officer. A new CO implies that the performance of the unit is in flux, less at the beginning and increasing during the CO’s time. A force cannot reasonably expect to have overall improvements if this is the case and should maintain at least the standards of the Commanding Officer before him. This creates a much stronger and consistently improving command, which the NC State Battalion has proven itself to be.



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The ceremony itself, following Navy tradition in the Fall and Marine Corps tradition in the Spring, then continued with a short speech by MIDN Ransom. She mentioned the achievements the Battalion attained during the semester and thanked everyone for their hard work. MIDN Ransom concluded by reading her orders to be relieved by MIDN Fuquea, who then read his orders to relieve MIDN Ransom as Battalion Commander. This was followed by the traditional passing of the unit’s guidon, symbolizing the passing of responsibility from one to the other. MIDN Fuquea spoke briefly about how much he is looking forward to a great semester and that he and his staff will be working hard to guide the Battalion as best they can. The members of the Battalion are also looking forward to what their Commanding Officer has in store for the unit as he leads us into a new year and new semester.

Best wishes for the upcoming semester and....Go Pack!

