



SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps



INSIDE:

MEMPHIS DRILL MEET

SURGEON GENERAL'S VISIT

MESS NIGHT

SPRING REVIEW



SPRING 2009



THE 1 MC

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

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ON THE COVER:

Marine Options from Savannah State NROTC finish a weekend long Field Exercise with a 12-Mile Hike.



NOW HEAR THIS ...



*Captain Kent V. Flowers, USN
Commanding Officer*

This has been a busy semester! It comes to an end with some truly noteworthy achievements. We started the year by successfully completing the Officer Development Assist visit. Savannah State University set the standard or exceeded it in many areas and was designated mission capable. In early February, I was notified that Savannah State University was selected as the top Navy unit. My article on the "Salute to Diversity" ceremony provides more details. It was a very memorable event. In March, we were privileged to host the Navy Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Robinson. He was able to

meet students, faculty and staff at Savannah State and Armstrong Atlantic State universities. His presence was very well received. He made time available for photo ops with the midshipmen. His story of success against the odds was inspirational and educational. In April, we conducted our Annual Spring Review. It was a first-rate event that was well attended by representatives from the academic and professional staff alike. We also had a great crowd of parents and other supporters. We started the summer off with our dining in and commissioning ceremony. Both events gave us the opportunity to celebrate

milestones and set new goals. Finally, I must say good-bye to Captain Joey Martin and Lieutenant Josh Corbin. They have each served with honor, integrity and professionalism. They each leave behind a legacy of excellence that will be difficult to match. I feel privileged to have been on their team. Please join me in wishing them and their families' fair winds and following seas. It has been my honor and privilege to serve Savannah State University. I look forward to setting new standards in the fall. It will be great to meet and welcome our crop of new freshmen in August. I wish each of you a safe and happy summer vacation.

Being the Marine Officer Instructor here at Savannah State University has been the single most rewarding assignment of my career. Having the opportunity to shape the future leaders of the Navy and the Marine Corps is an incredible responsibility and one that I took very seriously. As I approach my nineteenth anniversary of service, I can't help but think about the day that I would inevitably retire from the Marine Corps. What I have been doing is training my replacements. If my standards seemed high, it was because I expect you to be better prepared than I was to assume the awesome responsibility that awaits you. **I am extremely proud of each and every one of you.** To the graduating seniors, earning your degree and a commissioning is an

amazing accomplishment that should be celebrated. After the celebration, the real journey begins. Have faith that the leadership situations that you have experienced here have prepared you for the next milestone. To the returning class and incoming freshmen, something inside of you told you that this decision was right for you. I understand that there are lots of distractions on our college campus competing for your time and energy. I challenge you to ask yourself which one of those distractions is designed to foster your academic success, develop your leadership skills and leads to a rewarding career. There is value in preserving; it reveals your true inner strength. Good luck and I'll see you at homecoming.



*Captain Joey S. Martin, USMC
Marine Officer Instructor*



*MIDN 2/C David Melendez, USNR
Midshipman Commanding Officer*

Congratulations on the end of another long yet rewarding semester. I would like to personally congratulate each Midshipman in this Company for being apart of something bigger than yourselves. Friends and family of these fine young men and women, please show them the support that they so rightfully deserve because the road that they walk is not an easy one. This semester our teams performed admirably in Sailing Regattas and Drill Meets. Our sailing team placed 2nd place overall at the Jacksonville University Sailing Regatta and our Drill

Team placed 3rd in Squad exhibition. Their hard work paid off and I hope that the future team commanders realize that they have some big shoes to fill. As we begin to receive more recognition for the good work that our unit does, I ask for two things. The first is that you take everything that we do here as a learning experience, both good and bad. The more that you learn then the less likely you are to repeat mistakes. The second thing that I ask is for you to always strive to lead by example. As hard as that is, it is imperative to becoming a naval officer. Take these two

things with you and I will consider this semester a success. I hope you all have learned as much as I have this semester. Continue striving to obtain your goal and one day it will be yours. To the incoming MCO, please continue trying to leave the Savannah State University NROTC Unit a better place than you found it. I would like to leave you with a quote from John Buchan that should serve as one of your goals as a leader. "The task of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there."

NROTC UNIT HISTORY

The Naval ROTC Unit at Savannah State University (then Savannah State College) was established on 22 September 1971 with an enrollment of forty-one midshipmen. The first four officers, three Navy Ensigns and one Marine Corps Second Lieutenant, were commissioned in June 1974. That second Lieutenant is now a Major General. In December 1977, the first “cross-town” Midshipman from Armstrong Atlantic State University (then Armstrong State College) was commissioned. To date, the unit has commissioned 232 officers into the Naval Service: 181 Navy Ensigns (39 Female, 19 AASU) and 51 Marine Corps Second Lieutenants (7 Female, 3 AASU).

SSU NROTC graduates include a Marine Corps Major General (O-8), several Navy Captains (O-6) and Commanders (O-5). Captain Donnie Cochran, USN (Ret) was the first black officer to fly with and then command the Navy Blue Angels. Captain Cynthia Miller, USN (Ret), the unit’s first black female to attain the rank of captain and currently holds a flag officer equivalent rank in the Senior Executive Service with the National Intelligence Agency. SSU NROTC graduates have held positions in command at every level to include major Marine Corps commands, a destroyer squadron, aviation squadrons, ships at the O-4 and O-5 level in the cruiser-destroyer, amphibious and mine counter measure communities.

Spring 2009 Commissioning Ceremonies



Ensign Lynette Ferdinand hails from York, Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Tracy Price and Vernon Ellis. She enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on 23 July 2001. Upon graduation from Marine Corps Bootcamp, Pvt Ferdinand reported to Aviation Operations Specialist school in Meridian, Mississippi. She then reported to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina where she served until being selected for BOOST. Sgt Ferdinand subsequently graduated from ME-CEP Prep School and reported to the Savannah State University NROTC unit in March 2006. SSgt Ferdinand earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a 3.6 cumulative GPA. She was commissioned

an Ensign in the United States Navy on 11 March 2009. Ensign Ferdinand was assigned to the USS GONZALEZ home-ported in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ensign Joshua Stokes hails from Brunswick, Georgia. He is the son of David and Felecia Stokes. He enlisted in the United States Navy in July 2000. Upon graduation from Navy Bootcamp, Seaman Stokes reported to Intelligence Specialist school in Dam Neck, Virginia. He then reported to Naval Support Activities Naples, Italy in 2001, where he served for three years. In 2004, Petty Officer 2nd Class Stokes then reported to Joint Analysis Center Moleworth, UK. He worked as a Russian maritime analyst where he served until being selected for the Seaman to Admiral (STA-21) program. Upon completion of Naval Science Institute in Newport, Rhode Island, Officer Candidate Stokes reported to the Savannah State University NROTC unit in July 2006. OC Stokes earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Armstrong Atlantic State University with a 3.6 cumulative GPA. He was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy on 9 May 2009. Ensign Stokes will report to flight school for training as a Naval Aviator in November 2009.



First Spring 2009 Awards

 SSgt Jean Durham
Public Affairs Officer

At the beginning of each Spring semester, Midshipmen from the Savannah State University NROTC unit are recognized for their last semester accomplishments by being awarded unit ribbons.

Color Guard:



Awarded to Midshipmen in the unit color guard for one academic year.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MIDN 2/C Smith, D | MIDN 3/C Williams | MIDN 4/C Ramseur |
| MIDN 3/C Aaron | MIDN 4/C Allard | MIDN 4/C Randolph |
| MIDN 3/C Banks | MIDN 4/C Atkins | MIDN 4/C Richardson |
| MIDN 3/C Jackson | MIDN 4/C Carter | |



Drill Team:



Awarded to Midshipmen participating in the drill team for one academic year.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MIDN 2/C Jordan | MIDN 4/C Anderson | MIDN 4/C Nwankwo |
| MIDN 2/C Melendez | MIDN 4/C Atkins | MIDN 4/C Ramseur |
| MIDN 3/C Aaron | MIDN 4/C Carter | MIDN 4/C Randolph |
| MIDN 3/C Daniels | MIDN 4/C Chance | MIDN 4/C Reynolds |
| MIDN 3/C Jackson | MIDN 4/C Hough | MIDN 4/C Richardson |
| MIDN 3/C Smith, D | MIDN 4/C Johnson | MIDN 4/C Singletary |
| MIDN 4/C Allard | MIDN 4/C Moton | MIDN 4/C Springer |



Community Service:



Awarded to Midshipmen for meritorious services to the community.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MIDN 2/C Melendez | MIDN 4/C Allard | MIDN 4/C Moton |
| MIDN 2/C Smith, D | MIDN 4/C Anderson | MIDN 4/C Nwankwo |
| MIDN 3/C Aaron | MIDN 4/C Atkins | MIDN 4/C Ramseur |
| MIDN 3/C Banks | MIDN 4/C Carter | MIDN 4/C Randolph |
| MIDN 3/C Richards | MIDN 4/C Chance | MIDN 4/C Reynolds |
| MIDN 3/C Smith, D | MIDN 4/C Hough | MIDN 4/C Richardson |
| MIDN 3/C Williams | MIDN 4/C Johnson | MIDN 4/C Singletary |

Pistol Team:

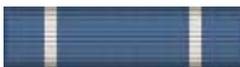


Awarded to Midshipmen participating on the Pistol Team for one academic semester.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MIDN 2/C Parsons | MIDN 4/C Anderson | MIDN 4/C Nwankwo |
| MIDN 2/C Smith, D | MIDN 4/C Carter | MIDN 4/C Ramseur |
| MIDN 2/C Smith, S | MIDN 4/C Chance | MIDN 4/C Randolph |
| MIDN 3/C Aaron | MIDN 4/C Johnson | MIDN 4/C Richardson |
| MIDN 3/C Banks | MIDN 4/C Moton | MIDN 4/C Singletary |
| MIDN 4/C Allard | | |



Sailing Team:



Awarded to Midshipmen who qualify as Skipper B and are a part of the team.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MIDN 1/C Cleary | MIDN 2/C Melendez | MIDN 3/C Litchfield |
| MIDN 1/C English | MIDN 2/C Smith, D | MIDN 4/C Randolph |
| MIDN 1/C Whitaker | | |

Martin Luther King Parade

Midshipmen march in the annual MLK Parade



(Above) SSU NROTC takes a command photo after the Martin Luther King Parade on 19 January 2009.

 SSgt Jean Durham
Public Affairs Officer

On 27 December 1979, after being barred from declaring 15 January as an official holiday, the Savannah City Council voted to permit a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1980 the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observation Day Association Inc. was established to coordinate schools, colleges, businesses and civic organization's participation in the "Day of Honor."

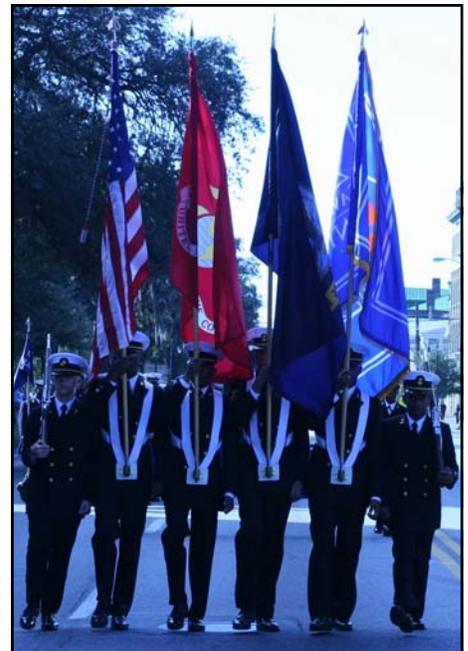
The Association's theme for the 2009 celebration was the "Martin Dreamt It, Barack Achieved It, We Will Live It." More than one hundred schools, colleges, businesses, and civic organizations turned out to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. The Savannah State University NROTC Unit proudly joined in the parade. Weeks leading up to the 15 Jan 2009 parade date, the Association advertisement campaign challenged the

Savannah community to make the holiday "A day on, not a day off." We [SSU NROTC Midshipmen], like most other college students, relish the opportunity to take some time off. However, the significance of this holiday made it easy to choose to march in a parade commemorating the slain civil rights leader, instead of taking the day off.

The parade started on the corner of MLK Blvd and Gwinnett St. and wound through downtown Savannah. Thousands of spectators turned out to watch the spectacular celebration. "I am particularly proud to march in the MLK parade because this great man [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.] paved the way for young men like me to be able to pursue a college education and a commission as a Naval Officer," said MIDN

2/C Rico Jordan.

The NROTC Unit was recognized as being the third best marching unit in the 2009 MLK parade.



(Above) SSU NROTC Color Guard marching in the beginning of the Martin Luther King Parade on 19 January 2009.

AVIATION AWARENESS

 MIDN 4/C Dustin Allard
Contributing Writer

As a child have you ever gazed at a flying airplane and wonder how it worked? Did you dream about meeting a pilot and asking him all about his job as a pilot. Approximately eleven hundred students from Chatham, Effingham and Bryan counties don't have to wonder or dream anymore. In an attempt to expose local students to the possibility of an aviation career, the Savannah State University NROTC unit, in conjunction with the 165th Georgia Air National Guard, holds an annual Aviation Awareness Day. The NROTC Unit coordinates with military and civilian aviation organizations to provide static displays of aircraft and access to the respective aircrews. The 165th Georgia Air National Guard provided the ramp space and the student are bussed in to tour the aircraft and speak to the aircrew. This year, Aviation Awareness Day 2009 was held on 10 & 11 March. A total of thirteen different aircraft to include a Marine Corps FA-18 jet, a Navy T-34 trainer, and a Coast Guard Dolphine rescue helicopter were on hand during the two day event. Students enthusiastically climb in the cockpits and for a short period imagined that they were the pilot in control of the aircraft.

Many of the students asked what was the key to becoming a pilot or a member of the crew? Overwhelming, the pilots responded that it took a desire to work hard and a strong academic background in math and science. Many of the students were amazed when they were told that they too could become pilots if they worked hard and excelled at academics.



(Above) Midshipmen and Aviation Awareness Days participants take a commemorative photo.

In addition to the aircraft static displays, the students were afforded the opportunity to fly a P-41 simulator and tour the Navy's Accelerate Your Life trailer. A number of recruiters from both military and civilian organizations were on hand to engage the graduating seniors and offer them future job opportunities. The event was a staggering success. Many students walked away having made a physical connection to something they always wondered about. More importantly, they had gained an awareness that a career in aviation is possible if they continue to work hard and excel in the classroom.



Ebony Fashion Fair

 MIDN 2/C Brent Bondurant
Contributing Writer

Ebony Fashion Fair is the world's largest traveling fashion show. The phenomenon started in 1956. Dr. Albert W. Dent, former president emeritus of Dillard University in New Orleans, approached Mr. John H. Johnson, publisher, chairman and CEO of Johnson Publishing Co. with the idea of a fashion fair fundraiser for the Women's Auxiliary of Flint-Goodrich Hospital in New Orleans. The first show was such a success that Mr. Johnson decided to take it on a cross-country tour to benefit other worthy charities. Ten cities were selected in 1958 by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson to host the first Ebony Fashion Fair. Ticket prices ranged from \$3.50 to \$12. The prices remained that way from 1958 through 1966, with more than 50 percent of the earnings allocated for scholarships.

For many years, Savannah State University has welcomed this unique opportunity to provide scholarships for its students. The NROTC Unit has long supported the annual Ebony Fashion Fair Scholarship Fashion Show and this year was no different. On Sunday, February 8th, 2009, four Savannah State University NROTC Midshipmen provided the sword archway, the focal point of the opening segment, through which each fashion fair model entered the stage for the first time. After the opening segment, the four lucky Midshipmen secured their swords and had the pleasure of escorting the models on stage.

"This is definitely one of the perks of being a Midshipman," said Midshipman 1/C Jay English, "Can you imagine what a thrill it is to be chosen to escort some of the

most beautiful young ladies in Savannah." In addition to the obvious perks, each of the Midshipmen agreed that it felt good to support such a worthy cause.



(Above) Midshipmen 1/C Cleary and 2/C Jordan create an archway for the fashion fair models to walk through.

THURGOOD MARSHALL

 Capt Kent Flowers
Commanding Officer

"What a privilege! On 12 February 2009, I represented Savannah State University at a "Salute to Diversity" reception held at the Gallup Building, Washington D.C.," said Capt Flowers, SSU NROTC Commanding Officer. The event was sponsored by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund in partnership with Gallup and recognized the outstanding ROTC programs from Army, Navy and Air Force at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Savannah State University NROTC was the Navy honoree. The Army honorees were West Virginia State University, Florida A&M University, and Virginia State University. The Air Force honoree was Fayetteville State University. Several Flag and General Officers were

Navy Outstanding ROTC Program Honoree

also honored from each service. They were General William E. Ward, USA; Lieutenant General Ronald S. Coleman, USMC; Vice Admiral Melvin G. Williams, Jr., USN; Lieutenant General Edward A. Rice, Jr., USAF and Rear Admiral Manson K. Brown, USCG. It was a spectacular evening with a distinguished crowd. "It was awesome to meet the distinguished honorees and retired Flag and General Officers. I was even able to spend a few minutes with our SSU Alum, Major General Walter E. Gaskins, USMC. I was truly happy to participate. It was my pleasure and honor to represent Savannah State University Naval ROTC Unit."



(Above) Midshipmen Commanding Officer accepts Thurgood Marshall Award on behalf of the company.

Bulldog Training



MIDN 3/C Micah Daniels

Contributing Writer



(Above) Marine Options take their first steps in preparing for the hikes at Officer Candidate School.

Every Marine Option Midshipman and MECEP student know that spring semester means increased intensity. Spring is Pre-OCS preparation semester. Unlike the fall semester, the Marines have a separate PT schedule and only Marine option Midshipmen, MECEPs and those who are seriously considering a change of option are invited to participate. There is no question that GySgt Wright, the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, takes Pre-OCS preparation seriously.

“When the AMOI reviewed the training schedule at the first PT session in January, I thought there is no way, we are going to be able to do everything on this schedule,” said Midshipman 4/C Dustin Allard.

After two conditioning runs in “boots and uts” at the end of week two, the Marine contingent was conducting the 3-mile hike; the first of four progressively longer hikes. Though they had ran three miles in PT gear and sneakers, the Midshipmen who had not participated in a force march with a weighted pack on their backs before were clearly astounded by the pace and distance. Although, the Marines had the weekend to recover, there was a run-rope-run event scheduled for the following Monday. Traditionally, a challenge for OCS students, climbing the rope while tired, builds their confidence on the rope. “During the first few weeks I felt like I was always tired, but something happened around week five. I felt stronger, I had more endurance

and I wanted more,” said Midshipman 3/C Darrius Smith. Before long we were on the five mile hike. The anxiety I felt as the eight mile hike approached was much less than my anxiety before the five mile hike. Similarly, the first rifle run was significantly harder than the second.

By the middle of the semester, the first fire team challenge proved to be a great distracter. During the individual effort PT sessions, if I fell out, I let my self down, but giving up during a team competition meant that I was letting the rest of the team down. The Marines departed for spring break on a high and they had developed a swagger.

Some were even overheard boasting to their Navy option shipmates about the more demanding PT. The first two weeks after spring break was scheduled to be light because they were the two weeks leading up to the semester physical fitness test (PFT). After the PFT, the gloves were off again. The pace of the runs were faster and the distances were longer. The bivouac classes, first aid, operations order and rifle assembly and disassembly classes were unexplainably scheduled after strenuous PT sessions when the Marines were tired.



(Above) Sgt Fralick demonstrates the proper technique on the high bar.

The stage was being set for the culminating Pre-OCS Field Exercise (FEX). Midshipman 1/C Whitaker, OCS graduate was designated as the squad leader and issued the warning order. On 25 April at 0900, the Marine Option squad will deploy to Fort Stewart Army Base to conduct Pre-OCS FEX 2009. At 0900 with the AMOI in the lead vehicle and the MOI in trace the Marine squad with their gear embarked in a total of three vehicles departed for the FEX. After the hour long drive, they arrived at the training site. The squad had an hour to set up bivouac then conduct a vehicle movement to the obstacle course. Following the O’course, the squad move to the day land navigation course. Most of the Midshipmen were not familiar with the new course. The terrain consisted mostly of wet marsh land and the mosquitoes were hungry. The squad was significantly challenged by the course. Wet and defeated, the squad move to the Leadership Reactionary Course (LRC). A different Midshipman was designated to lead each obstacle on the LRC. “The LRC wasn’t physically demanding, but because we were so tired, it was really hard,” said Midshipman 3/C Smith. Night land navigation was the final challenge.

“Though my team didn’t find any of the boxes, this was valuable training, because I learned that I become less meticulous when I am tired,” said Sgt Fralick. By the time the Squad retired for the evening it was 2230. Reveille was not welcomed the next morning as Midshipmen were slow getting out of the rack. We failed to break down the bivouac site in the time allotted and no one was looking forward to the 12 mile hike. After the bivouac site was police called, the squad donned their packs on their backs. The Commanding Officer, Captain Kent Flowers, USN, who drove out that morning, and the Marine Officer Instructor lead the formation from the front. The presence of the Commanding Officer was extremely motivating, but by mile three that motivation was not enough to sustain every one in the squad. By the end of the hike, the squad clearly had their limits tested. If it wasn’t for the AMOI chants during the last two mile many more would have faltered. On the ride home not much was said. Days after however, the Marine options reveled in their survival of the challenge and stood confident that they were ready to tackle Marine Corps Officer Candidate School.



(Above) Second Fire Team performs log run during FEX 2009.



(Above) Arms parallel to the deck is essential in Sling Arms.



(Above) Parade Rest is one of the several movements executed.



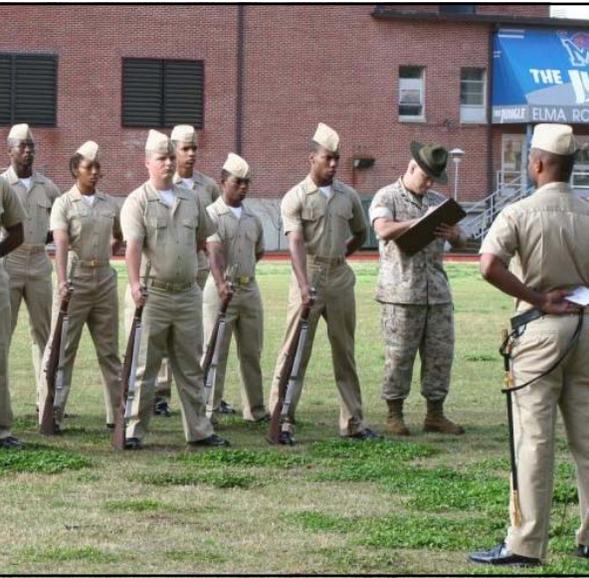
MEMPHIS DRILL MEET

 MIDN 3/C Darrius Smith,
Contributing Writer

Hoorah Drill Team!!! On 26 March 2009, the SSU NROTC Midshipmen Drill Team departed Savannah State University for the University of Memphis to participate in the 2nd Annual Beale Street Drill Competition. Arriving two days before the competition, the drill team used the time to make

their uniforms inspection ready and to perfect their routines. Finally on the morning of 28 March 2009, it was Showtime! “The drill team had endured many late night practices and intense drill sessions in preparation for this competition, and they were ready to showcase their talent,” said MIDN 3/C Darrius Smith, the drill team commander.

SSU NROTC was the first team in the rotation. “The light rain and wet, muddy drill field were less than ideal conditions for a drill competition, but we had worked too hard to be deterred,” said MIDN 4/C Sean Randolph, drill team member. The SSU NROTC drill team competed in Platoon Basic Drill, Squad Basic Drill, Squad Exhibition, and



(Below) Midshipman 3/C Smith reports his squad to the inspector.



color guard. Every one of the twelve teams in the competition had worked hard to be ready for this opportunity to earn the bragging rights of being the best drill team in the region. The determination on the faces of all the Midshipmen was clearly apparent. "The competition was intense; however, the scores confirmed that our hard work had paid off," said MIDN 4/C Gabriel Singletary. The SSU NROTC drill team earned third place in squad exhibition drill!



(Above) 3rd place winners in Squad Basic pose with the trophy.
(Below) The day before the competition, Midshipmen practice in the gym.



MIDN 4/C Justin Ramseur, MIDN 4/C Brandon Richardson, MIDN 3/C Michael Litchfield, MIDN 4/C Dustin Allard, and MIDN 4/C Sean Randolph definitely deserve special recognition for their outstanding efforts while participating in the Squad Basic event, said MIDN 3/C Darius Smith. The entire drill team agreed that they received more than a trophy from the drill competition: they came away as a more cohesive unit, motivated and dedicated to

attack the next mission. "A drill competition is an integral part of the training that Midshipmen receive on their way to becoming officers. It teaches Midshipmen a lot more than basic drill," claimed Gunnery Sergeant J. L. Wright, Jr. "The logistics planning associated with getting a drill team to and from a drill meet allows the Midshipmen to develop those skill sets desired of junior officers. I am extremely proud of the Drill Team and I look forward to what next year has to offer!"

Surgeon General's Visit

 MIDN 1/C Robert Cleary
Contributing Writer

On 4 March 2008, Savannah State and Armstrong Atlantic State Universities' NROTC Midshipmen experience something that most Midshipmen throughout the nation will never experience. Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, USN, the Surgeon General of the Navy, visited the NROTC Unit to share his experience with the Midshipman Company. After a brief meet and greet with the University's President and his cabinet, VADM Robinson spoke to the Midshipman Company and other interested students who had gathered in the Jordan auditorium. VADM Robinson told the audience that people are limited only by the limitation they put on themselves. He shared the

experience of his journey from a young irresolute junior officer to his arrival as the top doctor in the United States Navy. After his presentation, the VADM graciously posed for a picture with each Midshipman present and took the time to answer a volley of questions. VADM Robinson clearly inspired the Midshipman Company. "Seeing an African American naval officer who has attained flag status and is the top of his field in medicine, motivates me and inspires me to continue to strive for excellence," said Midshipman 4/C Brandon Richardson. VADM Robinson presented the Midshipman Commanding Officer, Midshipman 2/C Melendez with his coin. "I felt extremely honored to receive my first coin from such a prestigious officer," said



[Above] Midshipmen company takes a command photo with the Surgeon General

Midshipman 2/C Melendez. During the afternoon, VADM Robinson traveled to Armstrong Atlantic State University to make his presentation to the Department of Health Services. The President, his cabinet and the faculty and students of the Health Service department graciously received the Surgeon General. At Armstrong Atlantic State University, VADM Robinson told the audience that the Navy is still hiring and not just the traditional nurse candidates. The Surgeon General's visit was an absolute success and it is one that will be remembered for a long time to come.

SAILING REGATTA



(Above) 3/C Michael Litchfield waits for wind.

 MIDN 4/C Sean Randolph
Contributing Writer

Savannah State University NROTC Unit Sailing Team shocked the competition once again. The three-man team consisting of Midshipman 1/C Robert Cleary, Midshipman 3/C Michael Litchfield and Midshipman 4/C Sean Randolph (Team Captain) with their sailing advisor, Lt. Joshua Corbin, USN, traveled to Jacksonville, FL to

compete in their second regatta of the semester. The competition was stiff. The University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, the University of South Carolina and the University of Florida rounded out the competition. A small Historically Black College or University (HBCU) with 32 Midshipmen, the Savannah State University NROTC Sailing Team was a long shot.

When the Savannah State Sailing Team took to the water, most of the competition soon realized the team from Georgia was a real threat. "We are a small NROTC Unit, but we have a lot of heart and we always strive to represent our unit well," said Midshipman 1/C Cleary. The self-proclaimed underdog team was on its way to win the entire thing when a drastic change in the wind wilted their sails. Only one team was speared with the tenacity of the "Tigers." When the final scores were tallied, Savannah State University won second place overall during the

Jacksonville University Sailing Regatta on 7 March 2009. "After our performance earlier this semester and then this performance here today, I think the other sailing teams are starting to take us seriously," said Midshipman 4/C Randolph. The SSU NROTC Sailing Team was ecstatic to receive the 2nd place trophy and Midshipman 3/C Litchfield beamed with pride as he vowed to display the trophy upon the team's return to Savannah.



(Above) The sailing team waits to board their vessel.

Mess Night

 OC Joshua Stokes
Contributing Writer

A great night of fun and “dime-dropping” occurred at the Savannah State University NROTC Midshipman Company's annual dining-in/mess night on 2 May 2009. Held at the Hunter Club on Hunter Army Airfield, the newest midshipmen in the company quickly learned that everything they had done throughout the semester was not forgotten by their peers as humorous charges were brought against them. A few rebuttals or further evidence resulted

in a fine, or worse, a trip to the grog by the order of the mess president, MIDN 2/C David Melendez. All of this occurred in the midst of an exceptional formal dinner presented by the staff of the Hunter Club. After everyone was adequately embarrassed--from the freshmen to the guest of honor, CAPT Kent Flowers, toasts were given to remember those who have served and sacrificed before us, including a special tribute to the Prisoners of War and those who are Missing in Action. After a fun filled night, the event closed with

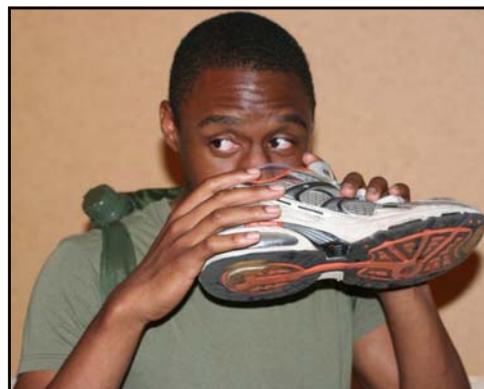
a heartfelt farewell to two departing staff members, Capt. Joey Martin and LT Josh Corbin. In my experience here, each dining-in has been better than the last, but I cannot imagine how next year's can be any better.



(Above) Midshipman 3/C Daniels explains to the President of the Mess why a pizza has been delivered.



(Above) Smiling for the camera, Midshipmen 1/C English and 2/C Smith anxiously await their dinner.



(Above) Drinking the grog from his own shoe was by far Midshipman 3/C Jackson's worst punishment this semester.



(Left) Midshipman 1/C Cleary shows off his “Summer Whites”.



(Above) Capt Martin, CAPT Flowers and GySgt Wright pose during cocktail hour.

SPRING REVIEW 2009



(Above) Midshipman 3/C Smith presents his platoon.
(Below) Final Pass in Review.



(Above) GySgt Wright receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

 MIDN 1/C Michael Whitaker
Contributing Writer

Savannah State University's annual Spring Review is the biggest event of our academic year. It is the time when the Midshipmen Company receives awards for their performance throughout the past academic year. An Army Flag officer had accepted our invitation to serve as Reviewing Officer and Guest of Honor. Numerous Veterans Service Organizations and Military Association representatives were invited to present us with awards. Family and friends were driving from near and far to come and support us and most of all the Midshipmen had rehearsed tirelessly and were ready to showcase their pride and professionalism. 16 April 2009 was here and the Midshipman Company was ready to receive the pay off for its hard work. The narrator commenced the ceremony and the Midshipman Company performed impeccably. This was my fourth and final Spring Review and I must say that it was one of our best. From "sound attention" to



"pass in review," Spring Review was a huge success. At the end of the day, I was filled with mixed feelings. I was elated as I recalled the fond memories from past Spring Reviews, but saddened by the reality that this was my last. Our guest speaker, Brigadier General Thomas Vandal, USA, spoke about the importance of serving as an officer and the true meaning of patriotism. Undoubtedly, he inspired everyone who heard him speak. The public recognition for our hard work evoked a deep sense of accomplishment and reminds us that we have volunteered to participate in a program that is uniquely challenging. What was more amazing than the intense feeling of pride I felt was the look of infinite pride reflected on the faces of our families, friends, professors and other well wishers.



(Above) Midshipman Commanding Officer salutes Unit Commanding Officer.



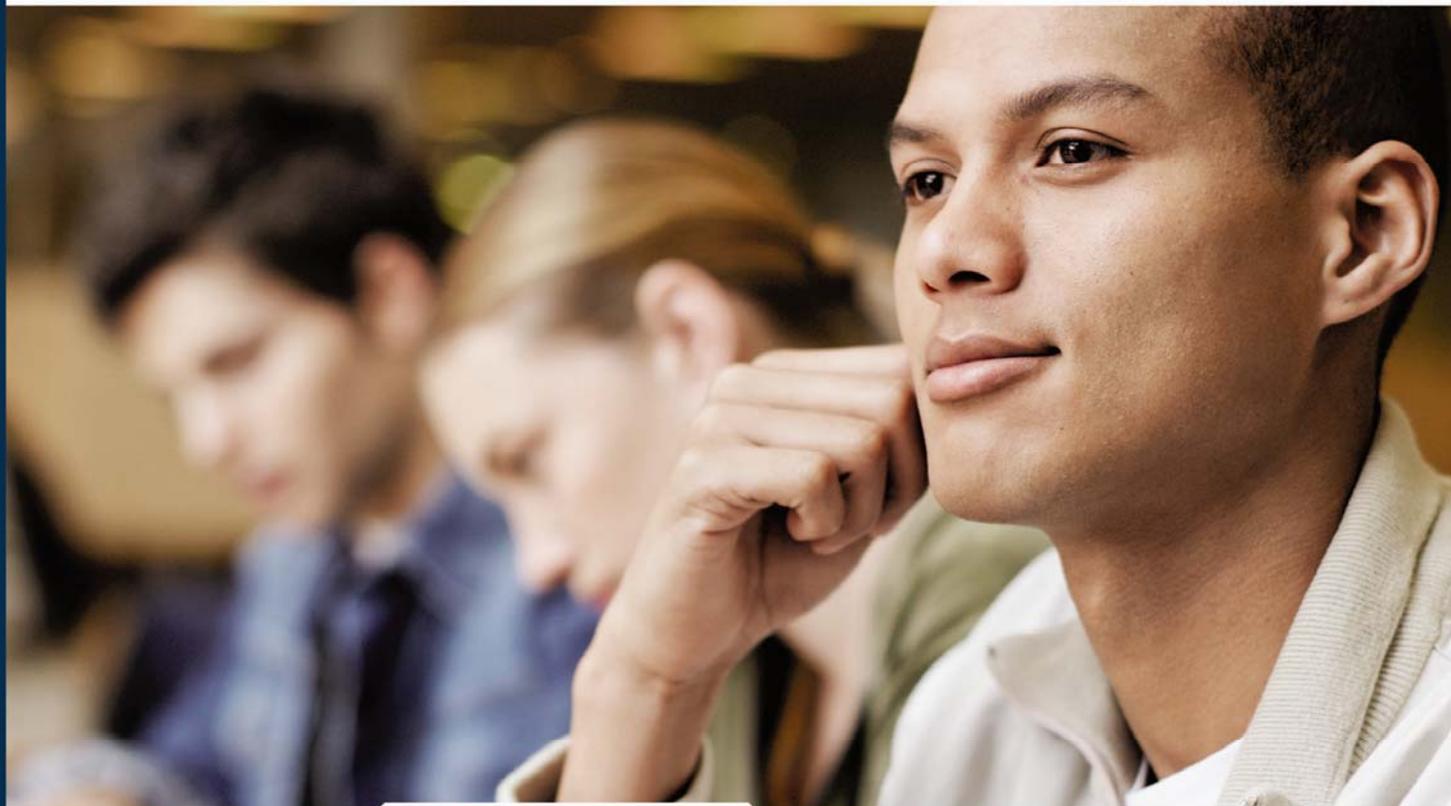
(Above) Officer's Center. (Below) Staff Pass in Review.



(Top Left) Guest of Honor and Unit Commanding Officer salute the colors while inspecting the command.

(Top Right) Change of Command for Midshipmen Commanding Officer.

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