



Savannah State University's NROTC 1MC
 Fall 2017



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History

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program was established in 1926 to provide a broad base of citizens' knowledge in the arts and sciences of Naval Warfare. The program provided an opportunity for young men to undertake careers in the naval profession. The Marine Corps entered the NROTC Program in 1932, offering qualified NROTC graduates commissions in the United States Marine Corps. In 1972, the Secretary of the Navy authorized 16 women to enroll in the program and attend school at one of four colleges. Women may now participate in the program while attending any NROTC affiliated college or university. In 1990, the NROTC Scholarship Program was expanded to include applicants pursuing a four-year degree in Nursing, leading to a commission in the Navy Nurse Corps.

Capt. Cochran's Formula for Success

1. Self confidence
2. Education and preparation
3. Persistence
4. Performance

Midshipman Commanding Officer's Vision



With much optimism, I have confidence that I can help to promote a culture of critical thinking. The midshipman company's ability to take their experiences from other organizations, summer cruise, and the experiences of others and apply them to their own leadership style is pertinent. Additionally, I encourage the midshipman company to have a "questioning attitude", in hopes that midshipmen begin to think more inclusively about the reasons behind Navy and Marine Corps traditions, rules, and regulations.

-Midshipman 1/C Swiney

Midshipmen of the Semester



MARINE UNDERCLASSMAN

Of the semester,
MIDN 2/C Cherilus, Erickson



MARINE UPPERCLASSMAN

Of the semester,
MIDN 1/C Rodriguez, Wesely



NAVY UNDERCLASSMAN

Of the semester,
MIDN 3/C Webb, Josiah



NAVY UPPERCLASSMAN

Of the semester,
MIDN 1/C Swiney, Cierra

New Student Orientation



Being a troop handler for NSO was a great experience. I really enjoyed educating the incoming fourth class midshipmen on basic military customs and introducing them to the daily life of a midshipman. The end goal of NSO was to make sure they all had the same knowledge especially since they all aspire to become officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. We have done well by stripping away their individuality and holding them to a strict set of rules.

- Midshipman 1/C Chantz William

“In the little time there was I learned a lot about the basics of being a midshipmen, how to wear my uniform, drill, and the customs and courtesies of the Navy/Marine Corps. I feel like I gained more discipline, and more confidence on how I am going to perform at the unit.”

- Midshipman 4/C Sheehan-Arias



“NSO was also an experience that built friendships that could last a lifetime. Overall, this unit’s New Student Orientation was helpful, and I believe it will continue to be helpful in years to come. ”

- Midshipman 4/C Henriquez





After Hurricane Irma, Savannah State's NROTC program took it upon themselves to volunteer to clean up retired Army Colonel Ray Jim Vejar's yard and home. Hurricane Irma came through and caused wind and water damage to this veteran's home the unit decided it was their duty to help him out in his time of need. On September 24, 2017 after a few hard hours of cleaning his home and yard was free of debris.





Halloween Run 2017

Our annual Halloween Run strikes again! This is a physical event that everyone actually looks forward to each year. The Midshipmen dress up in a wide range of different costumes and go for a run around our university's campus screaming military running cadences with a short PT session around the midpoint of the run. The run brings awareness of the unit to the rest of the campus and sets the tone for the Halloween festivities.



Speed Mentoring Session

Our Commanding Officer help put on this amazing event for the Midshipman Company so we can receive the best advice there is to offer from Savannahs best Alumni, Active Duty, and Retired Sailors and Marines. They schooled us on the do's and don'ts, pros and cons, and just their overall experience at Savannah State and the United States Military. The Midshipman Company was able to meet many of the "firsts" that Savannah State had to offer such as some graduates from the very first NROTC class, first female Four Star Admiral in her field, first African American female Marine Option, and many more great mentors. The Midshipman got to sit up close and personal with the mentors and ask questions and get genuine feedback. This was a great and influential event and the Midshipmen hope to see more mentoring sessions in the future.



Homecoming Parade 2017

The Savannah State University Annual Homecoming Parade is a very important event because it shows off every organization on this campus which continues the tradition of the University and continues to strengthen the pride everyone has in this illustrious University.

- MIDN 2/C Eubanks, Kevin



From A Freshman's Perspective



I feel that the curriculum of the NROTC program at Savannah State University teaches realistic leadership that prepares us for life in the fleet. From the start of New Student Orientation (NSO) to the buildup of Bulldog, I have never felt more mission oriented. Looking back to high school, I always imagined the transition into college would be difficult; however, being a part of this unit has made my academics and extracurricular activities a success due to the rigid structure. Besides structure, the ability to see and interpret different perspectives and leadership styles has challenged me to open my mind to new ideas. Overall, I have truly appreciated the realistic approach to leadership that the Unit that is preparing us for our future careers.

- MIDN 4/C Bramblett, Kemper

Our “SWO-tivated” Senior

Upon graduation, one newly commissioned Ensign will be reporting to his new home aboard a Surface Warfare vessel. Fair winds and following seas to this new Ensign.



MIDN 1/C Pitre, Isaiah

USS Curtis Wilbur

Yokosuka, Japan



Fair Winds and Following Seas

It's time to hang 'em up. This has been a great and rewarding career and I am very proud to be a part of such a fantastic organization. I am incredibly thankful to be a naval officer and to have been given the opportunity to lead young Sailors and Marines.

This final tour has been a blessing and one I will not soon forget. I would like to thank my staff, both military and civilian. Because of you the command has been very successful in providing quality officers to the Fleet. Due to staff, student, and university dedication we met the Navy's goal of making nuclear propulsion candidates, had Surface Warfare Officers win Fleet awards, and built a well-respected majority Marine unit with record number candidates graduating from Officer Candidate School.

I would like to thank the students for their hard work, camaraderie, dedication to each other, and everything you have taught me about the latest generation of naval officer. Hopefully the relationships you build here will continue into the Fleet and beyond. You are coming from a historic university that prides itself in maintaining a tight alumni system. I am always impressed with what I see from the alumni and hope to call them my friends long into the future. Please stay in touch with each other, the school, and the NROTC Alumni Association. Continue to help those who follow in your footsteps.

I would like to thank Savannah State University, its alumni groups, and the local community for your support. There have been a number of key folks who have helped our students take themselves to the next level. I cannot tell you how great it is to have support from a university that places military service in such high regard. It has been a wonderful experience to be the Professor of Naval Science at Savannah State. Thank you!

As our young Midshipmen and Officer Candidates prepare to enter the Fleet, I have some additional advice: build trust and maintain focus. As junior officers be yourself while building trust with your Sailors and Marines. Take care of them, stand up for them, and never lose their trust. Trust is very difficult to gain and incredibly easy to lose. Know where you are, know where you want to go, and build a roadmap to get there. Stay the course with great discipline, if you fall get up, and always stay positive as you look forward to the road ahead.

I wish you all the best in the Fleet and hope to see you again soon.

Very respectfully,

Captain Todd Lacy

U.S. Navy



Welcome Aboard!!!

LT Kris Estabrook was born and raised in Syracuse, NY as one of six siblings. He attended Christian Brothers Academy (CBA Syracuse) for both middle school and high school. Throughout his tenure, he was active in many sports including basketball, football, lacrosse, and golf. He won the NYSPHAA state championship for football in 2005 and placed second for lacrosse in 2006. LT Estabrook graduated in 2007 as a member of the National Honor Society with a primary appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

During his understudies, he participated in two engineering internships. The first was in Seattle, WA with the United States Army Corps of Engineers working as a project manager overseeing several construction sites for new buildings. The second was in Panama City Beach, FL inspecting and repairing Seal Delivery Vehicles to ensure their mission readiness. In addition to his academic studies, he was a member of the sprint football and powerlifting team. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering, LT Estabrook was commissioned as an Ensign and moved to Pensacola, FL to join the Naval Aviation Community. Following the completion of Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) and Primary Flight Training in the T-34C, LT Estabrook was selected for the helicopter pipeline and assigned to Helicopter Training Squadron 28 (HT-28) in Milton, FL. He received his pilot wings in March 2013.

LT Estabrook was immediately assigned to AMCM Weapon System Training School (AWSTS) in Norfolk, VA to learn to fly the MH-53E Sea Dragon. In December 2013, he reported to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) for his first operational sea tour. While at HM-15, LT Estabrook deployed for a total of twelve months between March 2014 and January 2016 in direct support of United States Carrier Strike Groups and Operation Inherent Resolve in the Fifth Fleet Area of Operations. Upon his return from his last deployment, he was assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26 (HSC-26) to serve in the Operations Department.

LT Weise was born in West Palm Beach, Florida. He attended the University of Georgia graduating with a BA in History and a Certificate of African Studies.

LT Weise attended Officer Candidate School with class 08-12 graduating and commissioning March 22, 2012. Upon completion, he accepted a billet to USS MASON (DDG 87) becoming the STRIKE Warfare Officer. LT Weise completed the yard availability and all training workups and, eventually, the HARRY S. TRUMAN 5th Fleet Deployment of July 2013-April 2014. He checked out of USS MASON September 2014.

LT Weise completed the Littoral Combat Ship training pipeline and reported to LCS Squadron Two March 2015. He is the Main Propulsion Assistant for LCS Crew 110 assisting USS DETROIT (LCS7) through Engineering Trials and preparing to commission the USS SIOUX CITY (LCS11).

LT Weise is married to Cindy Weise and is expecting their first child early September 2017. His achievements include a BA of History with Honors from the University of Georgia and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



LT Imir M. Weise

LT Kris E. Estabrook



Commander James R. Bird, USN

Commander James R Bird, a native of New Jersey, entered service in 1999 through the NROTC program at State University of New York Maritime College, where he majored in Electrical Engineering, and earned his Third Mate's Merchant Mariner's license. Commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer, he later completed the Navy Nuclear training pipeline, earning his Nuclear Engineering Qualification. CDR Bird also attended the U.S. Naval War College's Resident Junior Officer Program, where he completed his Phase I Joint Professional Military Education, and earned a Master of Arts in National Security studies. Throughout his career, CDR Bird has earned qualifications as Officer of the Deck (Underway), Surface Warfare Officer Qualification, Tactical Action Officer, and completed the XO afloat, and XO ashore training curriculums.

Commander Bird's Sea tours include: Division officer on USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3), Reactor Electrical Division Officer on USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71), Combat Systems Maintenance Officer on USS ESSEX (LHD-2), Staff N4 for AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON ELEVEN, and Executive Officer for USS DENVER (LPD-9). Additionally, CDR Bird served as a Shift Engineer at Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, NY and as a Personnel Exchange Program Officer assigned to the Australian Amphibious Task Group Staff.

Commander Bird has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 Awards), The Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 Awards), The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2 Awards), and the Humanitarian Service Medal. CDR Bird has deployed in support of operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, and participated in numerous international training exercises and humanitarian assistance missions while assigned to ships and staffs in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces, Japan.

Contact Information



Please contact the recruiting officer.

LT Muzik McClinton

Instructor

NROTC Unit

Phone: 912.358.3095

mcclintonm@savannahstate.edu

Commanding Officer

(912) 358-3095

Executive Officer

(912) 358-3095

Marine Officer Instructor

(912) 358-3085

Junior/Senior Advisor

(912) 358-3084

Freshman/Sophomore Advisor

Recruiter

(912) 358-3087

Assistant Marine Officer Instructor

PFA Coordinator

(912) 358-3091

Supply

(912) 358-3086

Administration

(912) 358-3095

Fax (912) 358-3187