



# The Lookout

## March 2018



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### Color Guard Helps Kick Off

### LCDR Forstner's Retirement

#### ***MIDN 2/C Hennie-Roed***

The GTNROTC Color Guard was invited to present colors and perform the Old Glory flag ceremony at the retirement ceremony of Lieutenant Commander Mark Forstner at Dobbins ARB on 27JAN2018.

the unit. He graduated from Tech in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He then went on to earn his wings as a Naval Pilot, putting in over 3,300 flight hours across seven different platforms during his career.

He is finishing 20 years of service as the intelligence analyst for airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms with Joint Staff J-32.

LCDR Forstner was a member of the GTNROTC battalion, and participated in the drill platoon and Color Guard during his time at



Above: Midshipmen perform the Old Glory flag ceremony

Right: Midshipmen perform color guard duties to start the ceremony



# Marine Platoon Heads to Camp Westminster

**MIDN 1/C Thomas**

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2018, the Atlanta Region Marine Platoon kicked off the second semester of their now year-round Officer Candidate School (OCS) Preparatory program, otherwise known as “Bull Dog”, by going on a mini Field-Exercise (FEX).

This FEX started with a 0500 muster, a rendezvous at Camp Westminster, and a rigorous 6-mile endurance hike with packs weighing up to 70 lbs. After successfully completing the hike with minimum casualties, the platoon then dropped their packs and began another 1.5 miles worth of Small Unit Leader Evaluations (SULEs) where 2/C

Class marine options bound for OCS would lead their squad through a scenario created to test their mental awareness and tactical prowess.

Afterwards, the platoon shifted gears and began to help the staff at Camp Westminster with the labor intensive, satisfying work that the staff had laid out. Some Marine options cleared trails and pathways, other burned dead trees and vegetation, while one group, arguably the most fun group, harnessed their inner lumberjacks in order to chop and stack wood for about 4 hours. This was all to help Camp Westminster and its staff so that it may continue being a positive impact in its community by hosting various

camp and summer sessions for children.

Both the hike and SULEs were done using the land on Camp Westminster in Conyers, GA. Camp Westminster and the Atlanta Region Marine Platoon have had an ongoing partnership for over 5 years thanks to a former Marine Option from the platoon. The community service itself serves as a way for the platoon to not only get away from the struggles and monotony of everyday college life, but also to get in touch with the civilians they one-day hope to protect. The platoon visits Camp Westminster every semester and plans to keep the relationship alive and well by providing their time, energy, and sweat whenever possible.



The Marine Platoon is full of smiling faces after a long day of satisfying, albeit difficult, work.

# Battalion Prepares for Naval Ball with SDB Inspection

## *MIDN 3/C Guild*

Prior to enjoying the night of revelry that is Naval Ball, midshipmen had to show their chain of command that they were ready.

During drill on 1MAR2018, midshipmen formed up in their platoons to be inspected by both the company and battalion staff. Midshipmen were asked a myriad of knowledge questions while their uniforms were examined for cleanliness and neatness.

With only a few minor details needing to be fixed, and a battalion that knows its facts, it was determined that the midshipmen were ready for the ball.



Above & Above Right: Midshipmen are inspected by battalion and company staff prior to Naval Ball.

## **USS Helena (SSN-725) Crew Visit**

### *MIDN 4/C Farist*

During drill on 6FEB2018, Georgia Tech midshipmen had the privilege of welcoming Commanding Officer Jason Pittman of the USS Helena, as well as the Chief of the Boat (COB) and a Lieutenant (LT) of his crew.

The gentlemen delivered a captivating and informative presentation regarding life on submarines and the missions they are required to complete (as much as they are permitted to discuss, at least).

Captain Pittman conveyed the hard work required and the stresses endured when working in submerged, confined spaces. Though it can be a tough environment, the satisfaction of leading a crew successfully through top se-

cret missions makes it well worth the sacrifices.

The LT and COB discussed their roles as well. The COB, with years of prior experience, is able to help train and familiarize new incoming officers with sub life and their duties.

The men also shared their backgrounds leading to their positions and experiences since boarding the USS Helena, which included stellar photos aboard the surface of the submarine in Norway.

Following the initial drill period, midshipmen possessing an interest in nuclear operations attended a catered lunch where they had the opportunity to ask further questions about sub life and the men's experiences.

# Midshipmen Help Plant Trees

## **MIDN 3/C Guild**

On a misty Saturday morning, midshipmen from both the Georgia Tech Battalion and Morehouse Battalion journeyed to near-by Doraville to plant trees.

The battalion joined forces with Trees Atlanta, a local non-profit which plants and maintains many of the city's green spaces, to help beautify a city recreation center.

Following an instructional brief, midshipmen grabbed their

shovels, mulch, and sapling, and began the process of planting.

The thick grass and hard, rocky clay ground made digging the holes tough work, but ensured that midshipmen earned their service hours.

“Working in the neighborhood and seeing the people who would benefit from the work made this a meaningful experience. Furthermore, it was a great opportunity to bond with midshipmen from both battalions while working in the

community.” said MIDN 3/C Fenton of his experience at the event.

Following a morning of hard work, almost 90 trees were planted in Honeysuckle Park. Afterward, the midshipmen, along with other volunteers from the community, were able to look at the trees and their dirty clothes and hands and know that they had done something good.

