

A photograph of two young women with dark and light hair, both smiling and wearing black sweatshirts. They are standing in front of a large, multi-story building with a stone facade and a steeple. The text "VILLIA" is overlaid in large white letters, and "NOVA" is overlaid in large white letters below it.

VILLIA NOVA

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A photograph of a group of young men in U.S. Navy ROTC uniforms, standing in formation on a brick path. They are wearing camouflage uniforms and caps. The text "NAVAL" is overlaid in large white letters, and "ROTC" is overlaid in large white letters below it.

NAVAL ROTC

This Annual Report publicizes to Nova Nation and other interested stakeholders how Villanova University NROTC serves the community while illustrating our continued commitment to responsible stewardship of the most important resource entrusted to the NROTC staff – our country's future naval officers. Underpinned by an elementary financial audit, the report's main purpose is to highlight the diverse achievements of our Midshipmen and the tireless efforts of our active duty and civilian staff to set the conditions for our students to thrive. This feedback will help us align with Villanova's Strategic Plan and the broader officer accessions enterprise that falls under the direction and guidance of Commander, Naval Service Training Command(CNSTC).

DEAR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS OF VILLANOVA NAVAL ROTC,

As we conclude another remarkable year of training, learning, and leadership development, it is my distinct honor to reflect on the achievements of the Villanova Naval ROTC battalion and to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated individuals who contribute to our mission. The 2024-2025 academic year has been one of growth, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence in preparing the next generation of Naval and Marine Corps officers.

This year, our midshipmen have demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and academic excellence, embodying the values of our program and the traditions of service that define our institution. Through rigorous training, demanding coursework, and impactful leadership experiences, they have sharpened their skills and strengthened their character to meet the challenges ahead. Whether in the classroom, during field exercises, or within our community, their drive and determination have been nothing short of inspiring.

Our successes would not be possible without the unwavering support of our faculty and staff, who continue to provide exceptional mentorship and guidance. Their dedication to academic and professional development ensures our midshipmen are not only prepared to serve but to lead with distinction. To our alumni, your continued involvement and example serve as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact of this program. Your guidance, mentorship, and support are invaluable to the growth and development of the next generation of Naval and Marine Corps officers.

To the families and friends of our midshipmen, I offer my deepest appreciation. Your encouragement and sacrifices play an instrumental role in the success of these future leaders. The strength of our unit is built upon the foundation of support provided by those who stand beside us, ensuring that our midshipmen remain motivated and inspired in their pursuit of excellence.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to developing officers of the highest caliber—leaders who will serve our nation with honor, courage, and commitment. As we continue to navigate an evolving global landscape, I have no doubt that our graduates will rise to meet the demands of service with the same fortitude and dedication that have defined the Villanova Naval ROTC program for decades.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and belief in our mission. It is an honor to lead and serve alongside such an exceptional community. May we continue to uphold the proud traditions of our program and inspire future generations to serve with distinction.

With deepest gratitude and respect,
Scott Gehris
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Villanova Naval ROTC



VILLANOVA NROTC FAMILY,

The Fall 2024 semester kickstarted the midshipman back into their busy lives following a summer full of NROTC cruises and relaxation. Our Battalion leadership team focused on smooth communication between our midshipmen for the betterment and flow of the NROTC program. We welcomed our new Commanding Officer, Colonel Gehris, to the Villanova NROTC unit. We look forward to a successful 3 years with Col. Gehris leading the charge. With tradition, the motivated 4/C midshipmen were integrated into the battalion following the conclusion of the India Company Crucible. Although our Fall Parade was cancelled due to weather, we were still able to celebrate all their hard work. The Fall semester was packed with other events both inside and outside of NROTC! Notable events included hosting ADM Paparo, participation in the Cornell MEC, Marine Option FEX, and the Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball! Each one of these events required extensive amounts of hard work and planning from our midshipmen and our active-duty staff. The coordination and execution of each of them was a testament to the greatness and success of our leadership here at Villanova. Outside of NROTC, midshipmen stayed busy with events including Day of Service, Special Olympics, marathons, varsity and club sports, and leadership seminars. It has been the greatest honor to serve as Battalion Commander for Villanova NROTC, and I am immensely proud to have worked alongside driven leaders and peers who will thrive as officers upon commissioning.

Hooyah,

Nicholas P. Wood

MIDN 1/C Nicholas P. Wood
Battalion Commander, Fall 2024

Throughout the Spring 2025 semester, the Battalion continued to foster close relationships, motivating one another to continue to excel. With a renewed focus on current events, midshipmen worked to deepen their understanding of geopolitics and the role of the US Navy and Marine Corps on the global stage. They continued to show prowess, dominating the drill and PT fields at Military Excellence Competitions both off and on our home turf. Midshipmen planned and executed our first ever Dining In, bonding with classmates and enjoying one another's company. Seniors had ample opportunities to reflect on their time in the unit through hallmark events like the NROTC Gala and Spring Review, where midshipmen were honored by the participation of RADM Theodore LeClair. Today's midshipmen are honored to carry on the storied legacy of Villanova NROTC. Whether you are family, friends, or alumni of this program, we are sincerely humbled and grateful for your support.

Semper Fortis,

John W Doolin

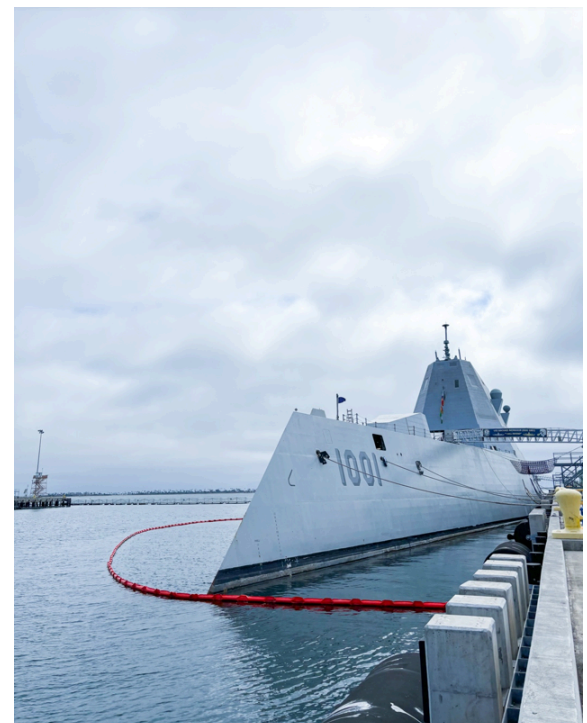
MIDN 1/C John W. Doolin
Battalion Commander, Spring 2025



SUMMER CRUISE SPOTLIGHT

COTRAMID

For their 3/C midshipman summer cruise, Villanova midshipmen had the opportunity to attend COTRAMID, a month-long program designed to expose midshipmen to the Navy and Marine Corps communities. Each week focused on a different area: submarines, surface warfare, naval and Marine aviation, and the Marine Corps. For Marine week, MIDN drove to Camp Pendleton and stayed for three days in Camp Talega. They had the incredible opportunity to experience realistic combat scenarios through the Infantry Immersion Trainer—an immersive outdoor training complex that replicates an embattled Middle Eastern town. During surface warfare week, they spent 12 hours underway on the USS GRIDLEY, an Arleigh-Burke class destroyer, and toured a new Zumwalt class destroyer (the USS MICHAEL MONSOOR). COTRAMID ended with aviation week, where MIDN explored a variety of aircraft simulators, went through swim qualifications, and toured MV-22 Ospreys and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters.





1/C CRUISE

Each summer, 1/C midshipmen have the exciting opportunity to go on an Aviation Summer Cruise. This cruise is approximately one month long and can take place anywhere from Norfolk, Virginia, where MIDN 1/C Dailey went this summer, to Whidbey Island, Washington, where MIDN 1/C Nattress went this summer. In Norfolk, MIDN Dailey experienced many aspects of Naval Aviation. He got to fly in multiple types of aircraft, such as the E-2 Hawkeye and MH-60R Seahawk, go underway on an aircraft carrier, and even see both helicopter and jet landings while onboard! In Whidbey Island, MIDN Nattress saw the other side of Naval Aviation, the P-8 Poseidon community. During her time with Patrol Squadron 9, she was able to shadow multiple P-8 pilots, sit in the cockpit during training flights, participate in a search and rescue training operation, and explore all over Washington. With the completion of this training, both midshipmen gained a greater understanding of the Naval Aviation community and its components.

2/C CRUISE

For my summer cruise, I flew into Japan and caught a Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) aircraft to embark on the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76) for my SWO Nuke training. During my time aboard, the ship was actively engaged in Operation Valiant Shield, a large-scale joint exercise that integrates U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps forces in the Indo-Pacific. This operation focused on enhancing interoperability, deterrence, and combat readiness in a high-end conflict scenario, emphasizing the importance of a forward-deployed, combat-ready naval force. Overall, my time aboard USS RONALD REAGAN was an invaluable experience that deepened my understanding of both the surface warfare and nuclear communities, strengthened my appreciation for carrier operations, and reinforced my commitment to a career in naval aviation and leadership.



SUMMER SEMINAR

WELCOME PROSPECTIVE MIDSHIPMEN!

From June 23 to June 27 this past summer, Villanova NROTC hosted its annual Summer Seminar for the third consecutive year. The five-day iteration gives prospective high school students a closer look at what life is like as a Navy ROTC student and guides them through the scholarship application process. The seminar begins by inserting the candidates into a high-intensity environment to prepare them for the professional and stressful environment that the military can be. The intense training environment is maintained until they are situated in their rooms for the week. Each following morning would start with a PT session incorporating many different aspects of battalion PT at the unit. From conducting the PRT and CFT on West Campus, to a swim PT in the Villanova pool, the students were physically challenged in numerous ways. Additionally, the candidates were enriched mentally with different briefs regarding the application process of joining the NROTC program, and the details regarding the different naval warfare platforms. In the evenings, the candidates participated in different rotating workshops with their fellow squad members. This year, there was a firefighting workshop, an air rifle shooting range, and a COVE simulator training session. Villanova University and their staff were extremely generous by volunteering professors to give presentations on the different colleges of Villanova. From the business school to the engineering school, Villanova's academic strength was put on full display as well.



FULL SPEED AHEAD

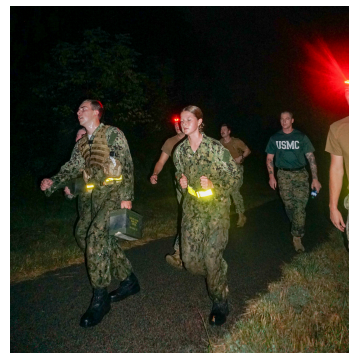


INDIA COMPANY



WELCOME TO THE BATTALION!

The mission of India Company is to train and mentor incoming midshipmen with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in NROTC at Villanova University and as future officers of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. India Company training priorities are to promote discipline, integrity, bearing, attention to detail, and purpose in accordance with the Code of Military Conduct, customs and courtesies, and military culture. India Company employs a training environment that is challenging both physically and mentally to prepare midshipmen for service in the fleet.



India company is broken up into three phases, which decrease in intensity each week. The first phase, known as the transition phase, takes place during the first week of classes. During transition, India Company Candidates have a strict schedule consisting of morning evolutions, academic classes throughout the day, and study hours in the evening.

The second phase of India Company is the longest, it is known as the adaptation phase. During these three weeks, India Company Candidates are expected to start working together as a team to accomplish tasks. At the end of the last week is the Crucible, where the Candidates take part in their final test. This event is the most challenging thing that Candidates will do during India Company, and they will need to work as a team to get through to the end.

The third, and final, phase of India Company is the mentorship phase. This week consists of fall parade practice in the morning, academic classes during the day, and evening briefs by various Midshipmen in the battalion.



FLAG & GENERAL

OFFICER SYMPOSIUM

VILLANOVA EXCELLENCE

On September 26, 2024 Villanova NROTC Midshipmen attended The Villanova Veteran Alumni and General Officer Symposium held in the Villanova Room. The symposium highlighted the important relationships between education and a life of service; fostered conversation about leadership and recruiting; and explored the connection between safeguarding a free and open Indo-Pacific and U.S. national interests. Midshipmen got to hear discussions aimed to strengthen national security by representatives from academia, local industries, and Philadelphia & Washington D.C based think tanks. The symposium engaged Midshipmen in dialogue on the nation's relationship with its military through leadership and partnership.

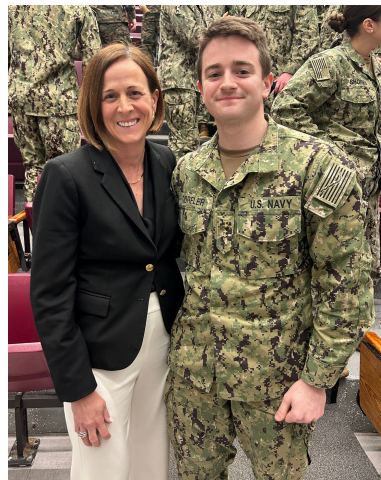


Key speakers at the Symposium were Admiral Samuel Paparo '87 CLAS, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. ADM. Paparo addressed the security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region, offering insights into leading Joint Force operations in this critical area. '94 LTGEN Spain led a panel discussion on comprehensive approaches to improving military readiness. The Honorable Patrick J. Murphy, the 32nd Under Secretary of the Army and Chief management officer, provided a forward-looking perspective on the future of the force, emphasizing how technology, personnel, and evolving national security needs are shaping the military of the 21st century.





This year, the battalion has been fortunate to host several honorable guests at Villanova University, including Mike Pence, Admiral Samuel Paparo, and Admiral Ted LeClaire. Among these guests, Staff Sergeant Dennis Derr stands out. Staff Sergeant Derr joined the Marine Corps in 1998, graduating first in his basic training class of 400. SSgt Derr continued to serve with distinction over his career in the Marines, becoming a distinguished graduate of the Sergeants Course, the Infantry Squad Leaders Course, an honor graduate of Marine Combat Instructor School, and receiving several other awards for distinguished service. He left the battalion with the final words, "You can always do way more than you think you're capable of; never give up on anything you want. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something."



In the spring semester, we invited one of our very own Midshipman's parents to come present on transitioning from the Military to the Civilian world. Mrs. Dorfler graduated from Villanova University with a commission as a 2nd Lt in the Army through the Villanova Army ROTC. After leaving active service as a Captain, Mrs. Dorfler is now the Chief Financial Officer for the NFL, overseeing all financial operations withing the business. During Mrs. Dorfler's time with the battalion, she provided her story, experiences, and challenges in transitioning from the Army to the Civilian world and working her way to CFO of the NFL. Among the other themes of presentation, Mrs. Dorfler focused on resilience, curiosity, ambition, a positive attitude, and integrity.



COLORADO MEC ENDURANCE TEAM



OHIO STATE MEC ENDURANCE TEAM



CORNELL MEC DRILL TEAM



**EXCELLENCE,
EVERYWHERE**

GWU CONFERENCE



CORNELL MEC COLORGUARD





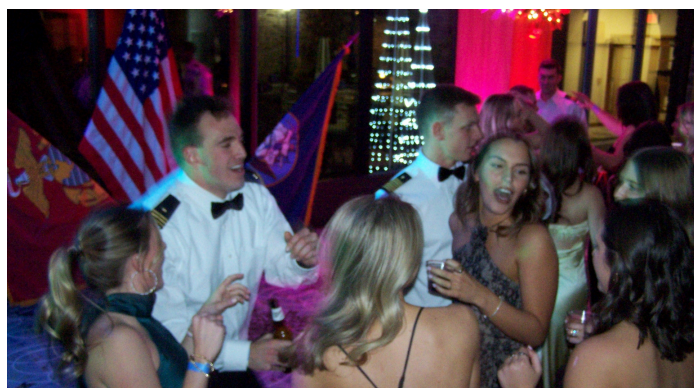
06 DECEMBER 2024 FALL BALL

HAPPY 249TH, USMC!

On December 6, 2024, Villanova NROTC hosted its annual Fall Ball at the Inn at Villanova University, celebrating the birthdays of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. The evening brought together midshipmen, active-duty officers, and distinguished guests for a night of tradition, reflection, and camaraderie.

The event began with a cocktail hour, giving midshipmen the opportunity to connect with one another, engage with officers, and meet the guest of honor, Colonel Kenneth DeTreuX, USMC (Ret.). The formal portion of the night featured the viewing of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps birthday messages, along with a reading of Commandant John A. Lejeune's historic birthday message.

One of the evening's key moments was the ceremonial cake-cutting, symbolizing the passing of knowledge and responsibility from seasoned leaders to the next generation. After dinner, midshipmen filled the dance floor, celebrating the occasion before the night came to a close. Thanks to the hard work and planning of Villanova NROTC, the 2024 Fall Ball was a memorable and successful event, honoring the proud heritage of the Navy and Marine Corps.



GALA

08 FEBRUARY 2025

A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

The 13th annual Villanova NROTC Gala and silent auction fundraiser took place in February of 2025. The Gala is a chance to honor the senior midshipmen and their accomplishments during their time at Villanova NROTC. The event is a special chance for the graduating seniors and their families to celebrate all of their hard work, growth, and achievements throughout their time at Villanova. It also provided an opportunity for senior midshipmen to honor each other and reflect on their time together before they embark on their next new adventures.

For the first time, the annual Gala was hosted at the Villanova Inn. Their exceptional staff and beautiful venue elevated the evening. It was filled with excellent drinks, dinner, and desserts for all. The Gala was attended by over 50 midshipmen, families, staff, and alumni. This year's alumni showing was the best yet and fostered connections between the present and past of Villanova NROTC.

The Gala includes a silent auction that was assembled by MIDN Joe Hayes. It included baskets and gift certificates from many businesses local to the mainline, as well as some Villanova merchandise, courtside basketball tickets, and tickets to any NFL game. A number of gift cards were also raffled off. The Commanding Officer of the Villanova NROTC battalion, Col. Scott Gehris, gave a charging speech inspiring the midshipmen to use their experience and growth at Villanova and carry it on into the fleet. Finally, the event concluded with a slideshow of the senior class that included baby photos submitted by their families, and highlights of their time at Villanova.





21 MARCH 2025 DINING IN

SAY IT AINT SO!

During the spring semester, the Battalion hosted its inaugural Dining In ceremony at the esteemed Villanova Inn—a momentous occasion that brought together camaraderie, tradition, and celebration. This formal event marked a significant milestone for the unit, establishing a new tradition that will undoubtedly be carried forward with pride in the years to come. The evening commenced with a lively cocktail hour, setting the tone for what would become a truly unforgettable night. Following cocktail hour, the battalion gathered in the dining hall as everyone in attendance embraced the time-honored customs of military dining ceremonies. Entertainment was abundant throughout the evening. Skits were performed creatively, light-hearted jokes were exchanged, and laughter echoed across the hall. The event struck a perfect balance between formality and fun, a testament to the thoughtful planning and execution by the leadership team.

MIDN 1/C Wood and MIDN 1/C Doolin, serving as Mr. President and Mr. Vice respectively, demonstrated exceptional leadership and charisma in their roles as hosts. Their presence anchored the evening's proceedings, ensuring that traditions were upheld while also encouraging an environment of inclusivity and humor. A highlight of the night was the infamous “Grog”—a longstanding tradition in military dining ceremonies where those fined by Mr. President for breaches of etiquette or humorous infractions were required to drink a mysterious concoction.



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Midshipmen are distinguished on the Villanova campus for their involvement and excellence not only in the classroom, but also on the field of athletic competition. MIDN 1/C Amelia Baca serves as captain of the Villanova Women's Water Polo team and plays center defense position- a role essential to stopping opponent scores and directing team movement. MIDN Baca is an Academic All-American for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and 2023 Big Cat award recipient.



MIDN 2/C Liam Anderson throws the shot put and hammer for the Villanova track and field team. He is a contributing member to the team as a 5-time point scorer in the Big East conference and has been named to the All Big East Academic team each season at Villanova. Being a thrower requires a great deal of strength, explosiveness, technique, and above all, commitment.

MIDN 3/C Jonathan Evans is a dedicated member of the Villanova Track and Field team, embodying the commitment and excellence that set Midshipmen apart on campus. As a key competitor, he contributes to his team's success through hard work, discipline, and leadership. Balancing the rigorous demands of both academics and athletics, MIDN Evans competes in the discus, hammer, and shot put.







NOVA DANCE

NovaDance is a hallmark event at Villanova. During this large-scale dance marathon, students raise more than half a million dollars to support children and families battling pediatric cancer. Villanova's Battalion Commanding Officer, Jack Doolin, also served as the Co-Executive Director of NOVA Dance Marathon 2025. Alongside many other midshipmen and students, he contributed to making this event a tremendous success.

SERVICE



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

During the Special Olympics weekend, spectators may notice a few khaki uniforms among the volunteers. The Villanova Battalion regularly participates by distributing awards for various Special Olympics competitions. From bocce ball to running races, they are constantly there to congratulate the athletes and make the awards a special experience. Members within the Villanova Battalion regularly volunteer throughout the weekend to help facilitate events for the athletes. The event is the largest annual student-run Special Olympics event in the world.



DAY OF SERVICE

Villanova NROTC plays a significant role in the Day of Service. This year, nearly every midshipman participated, with the battalion contributing over 50 volunteers. With support from Army ROTC and Women's Rowing, the NROTC Battalion was tasked with cleaning the grounds of the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge. By cleaning markers, weeding, clearing brush, and raking leaves, this dedicated group made a meaningful impact by assisting the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove in maintaining the site, honoring heroes, preserving history, and inspiring future generations.

NURSE CORPS

The NROTC Nurse Corps Program, a specialized track within the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), is designed for individuals who aspire to pursue a career in nursing while serving as officers in the United States Navy. This prestigious program seamlessly blends rigorous academic coursework in nursing with structured military training, preparing midshipmen to excel both as healthcare professionals and as leaders in a military setting.

One of the key benefits of this program is the opportunity to receive an outstanding nursing education from esteemed institutions such as the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, which ranks among the top 4% of nursing programs nationwide. This combination of high caliber academics and hands-on military experience ensures that graduates emerge as highly skilled, adaptable, and well-rounded professionals, equipped to handle the dynamic challenges of military healthcare.



Upon successful completion of the program and commissioning as Naval Officers, graduates have the opportunity to serve in a variety of settings, including world-class military medical centers such as Naval Medical Center San Diego (Balboa Hospital) or aboard Navy hospital ships like the USNS MERCY and USNS COMFORT. These assignments provide invaluable experience in delivering critical care, often in fast-paced or humanitarian mission environments. Currently, the unit boasts five dedicated nursing midshipmen, including MIDN 1/C Baca, who is on track to commission as a Navy Nurse Corps Officer and will be stationed at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center following graduation. With a strong foundation in both nursing and leadership, NROTC Nurse Corps graduates are uniquely prepared to make a meaningful impact in military medicine, whether in peacetime or on the front lines of humanitarian and combat missions.



COLOP GUARD

HISTORY AND TRADITION

For decades, Villanova NROTC has been renowned for its involvement in Drill and Color Guard, both on and off campus. Midshipmen gain valuable experience in discipline, precision, and teamwork through these activities. Throughout the year, they diligently practice and perform drill, demonstrating excellence in their execution.

In addition to their drill performances, Villanova NROTC's Color Guard plays a vital role in representing the unit and the university. During the fall semester, MIDN 3/C Spenceley, as Color Guard CO, trained incoming 4/C Midshipmen, while MIDN 3/C Olivas took on the role of Color Guard CO in the spring, continuing the tradition of leadership and mentorship.

They perform at various events, including Villanova football and basketball games, as well as significant ceremonies such as commissioning day and graduation. Their dedication and professionalism make them an integral part of the Villanova community, honoring traditions while upholding the highest standards of military excellence.

Villanova's NROTC Drill and Color Guard continue to set a high standard, showcasing their commitment to excellence and service in every detail.



SETTING THE STANDARD

This year the battalion instituted a Special Warfare Development Group, offered to all midshipmen who are pursuing a career in naval special warfare. Led by MIDN 1/C Wood throughout the first semester, the SPECWAR group focused on exercises, workouts, and techniques that could be seen in pipelines for EOD and SEAL officers. Things such as pool workouts on Sundays, pipeline focused workouts on Mondays, and administering the Physical Screening Test (PST) were all things that were focused on throughout the first semester. Transitioning into the second semester the SPECWAR group integrated with the Marine Options for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday workouts which often include a mix of running, lifting, swimming, and rucking. Recently, the SPECWAR group completed their 6-mile hike with the Mos around Mount Joy. By offering this experience the battalion hopes to help midshipmen have the best preparation and chance to get selected for the EOD or SEAL officer pipeline.



OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

Marine Options and Navy Options aspiring to join the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community have been hiking multiple times per semester. In the fall, 3, 4, and 6 mile hikes were executed. In the spring, 4, 6, and 9-mile hikes are conducted. These hikes are performed at Valley Forge National Historic Park or the Wissahickon Trail in Ambler, PA. MIDN begin with 45 lbs and work up to 65 lbs. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduates hike with 65 to 85 lbs.

In the fall semester, Marine Options traveled to Fort Dix to conduct a fall field exercise (FEX). This was an overnight exercise where MIDN slept in a bivouac site they created. During the FEX, MIDN practiced small unit leadership evaluation (SULE) lanes, land navigation, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) drills, and a hike. In the spring, MIDN go down to Quantico, VA for another FEX. In addition to all of the exercises done during the fall FEX, MIDN also are evaluated in a leadership reaction course (LRC) and the USMC obstacle course.

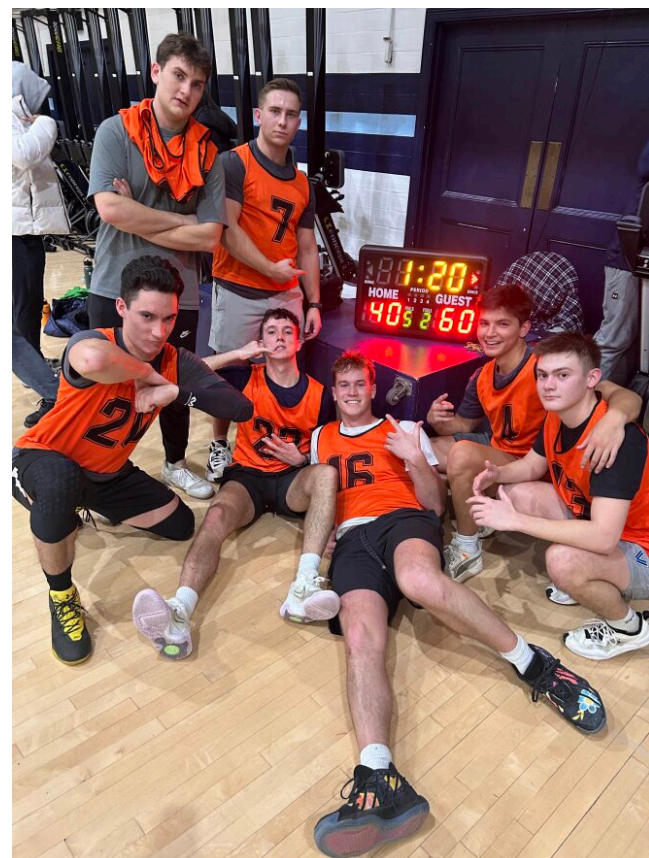
This year, the battalion has organized multiple bonding activities, including quizzos, a bowling outing, and participation in various intramural sports. For the first battalion quizzo, MIDN 1/C Shanley, Wood, and Alcalay emerged victorious. The quizzos provide a great bonding experience for the entire battalion, featuring catered food and an opportunity to enjoy a meal together while answering trivia questions. On February 22, 2025, some members of the battalion enjoyed a day of bowling while indulging in Campus Corner pizza. This past year, there was strong participation in intramural sports, including basketball, flag football, and dodgeball. In basketball, the Salty Dogs finished the regular season with a 2-2 record, which was enough to secure a playoff spot.

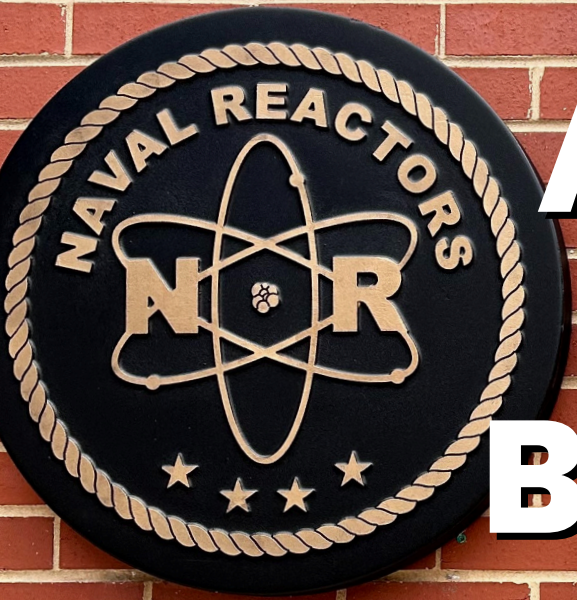
LETTING LOOSE



For dodgeball, three teams competed in this year's tournament. While all three teams played with great effort, none were able to secure the championship. However, the battalion remains determined and looks forward to coming back stronger next year to bring home an intramural dodgeball title. Overall, the Villanova NROTC battalion has had an exciting and eventful year, balancing hard work and professional development with camaraderie and fun. Through activities like quizzos, bowling, and intramural sports, midshipmen have strengthened their bonds and built lasting memories. As the battalion looks ahead, it remains committed to both excellence in leadership and fostering a strong sense of teamwork.

FELLOWSHIP OUTSIDE THE BATTALION





ABOVE AND BEYOND



SPOTLIGHT: MIDN MATTHEW NAWN

MIDN 2/C Nawn has been selected for Naval Reactors following his graduation from Villanova. He will be commissioned after his next semester in December 2025. This is a significant achievement, as only eight midshipmen are chosen for this role each year. Following graduation, he will undergo five months of nuclear engineering training, where he will gain the expertise needed to excel in the field. He will then serve at the Navy's Nuclear Reactor Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

As an electrical engineering student, MIDN 2/C Nawn looks forward to working in an engineering environment, collaborating with others to build and maintain the nuclear reactors used within the Navy. He believes this role aligns perfectly with his strengths and interests, allowing him to best serve his country.



MIDN Nawn attributes part of his success to the support he received from the battalion. He put in tremendous effort to maintain outstanding grades and challenge himself academically, making him a highly qualified candidate for this position. During his sophomore year, active-duty staff introduced him to this opportunity, and he has felt incredible support from them. Additionally, he has received great support from the battalion, including current midshipmen and newly commissioned ensigns who mentored him and assisted with his studies during his underclassmen years. This is an outstanding accomplishment for MIDN Nawn, and the battalion could not be prouder. Congratulations, MIDN Nawn!

ANCHORS AWEIGH



CLASS OF 2025!

Submarine Warfare



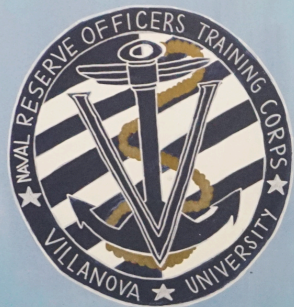
ENS PATRICK
GUNTHER

ENS ALEX
ALCALAY

ENS EMMA
SHORES

ENS SADIE
NATTRESS

Naval Flight Officer



ENS JOHN
DOOLIN

Surface Warfare
Officer

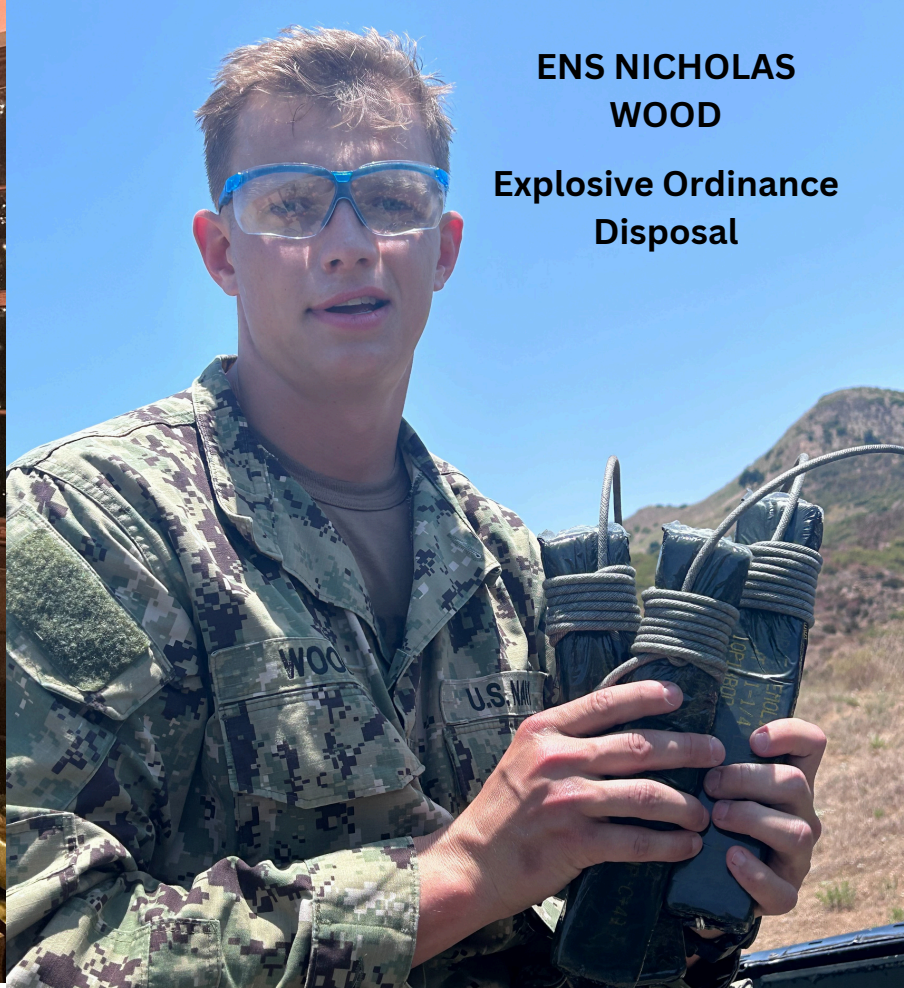


ENS MICHAEL
SHANLEY

Surface Warfare
Officer



**ENS AMELIA
BACA**
Nurse
Corps



**ENS NICHOLAS
WOOD**
Explosive Ordnance
Disposal



**ENS THOMAS
DAILEY**
Naval Aviator



**2ND LT
MICHAEL
SWEENEY**

**2ND LT
PATRICK
CUNNINGHAM**

A SENIOR I CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON

MIDN 1/C Sweeney has always gone above and beyond what is expected of him throughout his time at Villanova University. As a role model to all and a strong leader amongst his peers, here is what MIDN Sweeney has to say about the keys to success as both a college student and future Marine Corps officer:

As I am about to leave the battalion and commission, I want to leave you with simple but crucial advice: show up prepared and ready to train and learn at every evolution. NROTC is all about training to take on the huge responsibility of being an officer in the Marine Corps or Navy, not about skating by. Show up to PT on time, show up to events even when they're optional, and show up for your fellow MIDN when they need you. Being present and engaged sets you apart and earns the respect of your peers and instructors.



Don't just skate by doing the minimum required to stay in good standing. This program is designed to develop leaders, not box-checkers. If you adopt the mindset of just getting by now, that mentality will follow you into the fleet, and one day, your Marines and Sailors will suffer for it. Strive to improve every day, whether it's in physical fitness, leadership, or tactical knowledge. Seek out challenges, volunteer for responsibilities, and never let complacency creep in. The habits you build here will define the kind of officer you become.

That being said, ensure you take time to have fun, make friends, and make memories. Being a well-rounded human being will only help you in your future endeavors. Hope to see everyone in the fleet at some point! Semper Fi



SPRING REVIEW

11 APRIL 2025

A Celebration of Excellence and Tradition

The Spring Review is one of the most anticipated events on Villanova NROTC's calendar. Traditionally, it showcases not only the precision and professionalism of every Villanova midshipman through their outstanding performance in drill, but also the beauty of Villanova's campus in the springtime. While the weather didn't cooperate this year, the battalion certainly did. In collaboration with our fellow midshipmen from the Philadelphia NROTC Consortium — to include the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel, and Temple — the Villanova Battalion proudly marched and conducted the review for our guest of honor, Rear Admiral (RADM) LeClair, a distinguished Villanova NROTC alumnus. During the ceremony, the Battalion presented RADM LeClair with a National Ensign that had been flown over John Barry Hall. He shared that he plans to fly this flag over every post he has held during his long and storied career before his retirement later this year — a touching gesture that speaks to his deep connection with our unit. Thank you to the entire Consortium for their unwavering commitment to excellence. A special thanks as well to the deans, faculty, and staff in attendance; Villanova University President, Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA; our award presenters; RADM LeClair; and, most importantly, our incredible families and friends who braved the rain and cold to support us.





VILLANOVA DOES IT AGAIN!

From across the east coast and across branches: College of Holy Cross, George Washington University, Boston University, Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, New York City consortium, Pennsylvania State College AFROTC, and the Rutgers University consortium. The weekend, led by MEC Officer MIDN 2/C Rodriguez and Assistant MEC Officer MIDN 3/C Spenceley, with support from midshipmen and active-duty staff from the Philadelphia Consortium, demonstrated great growth from previous years, drawing both familiar and new units to our campus, and in greater numbers than before.

Midshipmen competed in three drill events: Platoon, Squad, and Color Guard, alongside various physical challenges on both the field and in the pool. Familiar events such as the MURPH Challenge, the 200m swim medley relay, and the much beloved "Chocolate Milk Mile" made a return. The "Endurance Race" changed up the competition this year with participants running along the Schuylkill River Trail in Philadelphia, finishing at the top of the Rocky Steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This year's MEC debuted the "10k Race" at Valley Forge.



The day's events encouraged midshipmen to surpass both their competitors and their personal limits. The MEC not only fosters friendly competition but also provides midshipmen with invaluable networking opportunities, allowing MIDN and Cadets to forge connections with their future shipmates, thereby strengthening the bonds of our Navy and Marine Corps team and building bonds with our brothers and sisters in other branches of the military. Villanova NROTC dedicated significant time, effort, and resources to prepare for the MEC, and the midshipmen competed with a strong sense of pride in their unit, committed to upholding its traditions of excellence. This pride and dedication served as a powerful motivator, driving them to perform their best and represent their unit with distinction, resulting in Villanova's Midshipmen placing in the top 3 for the majority of the events.

WELCOME



LT Jeremiah Roscoe is from Youngstown, Ohio, and attended Youngstown State University where he majored in Finance. He was commissioned into the Navy and the Surface Warfare Community through Officer Candidate School in 2020. He served 4 years on the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) out of San Diego, California. During this time, he was deployed to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleets and held positions in weapons and engineering departments. His passion in the Navy is to lead junior sailors. While at Villanova's NROTC unit, he looks forward to training the next generation of the fleet. His favorite memory is having conversations with midshipmen who share an interest in high-level tactical information. He is currently pursuing his MBA at Villanova.



LT Parker Gutzmann is from Riverside, CA. He earned his degree in Physics from the University of California, Riverside. After graduating, he joined the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) program and became a submarine officer. He served on the USS OHIO, one of the oldest submarines, where he gained leadership experience by overseeing the nuclear reactor and ensuring high standards were maintained. During his time on the submarine, he had many memorable experiences, including port visits to Guam and snorkeling. He also enjoyed "steel beach" events, where the crew could take a break and relax in the calm waters. LT Gutzmann was recommended to Villanova by his mentors, many of whom have connections to Philadelphia. He aims to pursue a master's degree here and is dedicated to helping midshipmen achieve their goals of joining the nuclear navy. He emphasizes the importance of balancing duty with enjoying the journey.

LT Micheal Feliz-Long was born in California and attended California State University, Stanislaus, where he studied Kinesiology with a concentration in Exercise Science. He started his naval career after enlisting and he was an Operation Specialist onboard the USS OKANE (DDG 77). After he was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer he did his first tour as a division officer on-board the USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) from August of 2021 to March of 2023. He completed his second tour from June of 2023 to January of 2025 where he was the Damage Control Assistant onboard the USS CARNEY (DDG 64) from June of 2023 to January of 2025. Lieutenant Micheal Feliz-Long said he wants to help prepare NROTC students to be commissioned Officers in the world's greatest Navy in his time at Villanova.



CDR James Gormley is from the Philadelphia area and was commissioned from Villanova's NROTC program in 2005. After completing his First Class MIDN cruise with an MH-60S squadron in San Diego, he fell in love with the platform. He was pinned as a Naval Aviator in 2007 and flew MH-60S helicopters. CDR Gormley received master's degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and George Washington University. His most recent tour was on the USS RONALD REAGAN CVN 76, out of Yokosuka, Japan. CDR Gormley previously served as a flight instructor, where he enjoyed teaching and mentoring junior officers. CDR Gormley looks forward to his next few years, saying, "I am excited to be back home at Villanova and I'm looking forward to helping shape the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps Officers."



ABOARD!



MIDSHIPMAN BATTALION COMMANDER'S INTENT

Mission Statement: To create an operationally excellent, organizationally efficient, and morale-focused battalion through prioritized engagement, fostered initiative, and holistic development among its midshipmen.

Operational Excellence: Operational excellence begins with the belief that training should be purposeful, engaging, and adaptable. I aim to foster a culture where each midshipman feels that their time spent in Naval Lab and PT contributes meaningfully to their development as future officers. This means emphasizing training with intent, whether through the structure of lab or the layout of physical training, so that every evolution is tied clearly to personal and professional growth. By encouraging a dynamic and responsive training environment, we can enhance not just retention of knowledge, but also the enthusiasm and initiative of our battalion members.

Organizational Effectiveness: An effective battalion runs on clear communication, structure aligned with purpose, and flexibility where needed. As Battalion Commander, I will work to ensure that the internal organization reflects the mission of producing well-rounded, high-performing leaders. This includes refining the purpose of companies and billets to match midshipman and department needs and interests while preserving opportunities for leadership development at every class level. I will emphasize collaboration across departments, seeking opportunities to streamline tasks, promote mentorship between staff and midshipmen, and advocate for institutional support that strengthens our ability to balance Navy and academic responsibilities.

Morale and Community: Morale is not simply about events, it's about creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, belonging, and shared ownership of the unit. I am committed to fostering a battalion culture where initiative is encouraged, input is valued, and every midshipman, from candidate to battalion commander, feels heard. By emphasizing mentorship, shared experiences, and open feedback loops, I believe we can build a battalion that is not just operationally effective but personally enriching. High morale leads to high performance, and a connected battalion is a resilient one.

Gavin Dorfler

Gavin J. Dorfler

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 2024-2025 VILLANOVA NROTC ANNUAL REPORT:



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