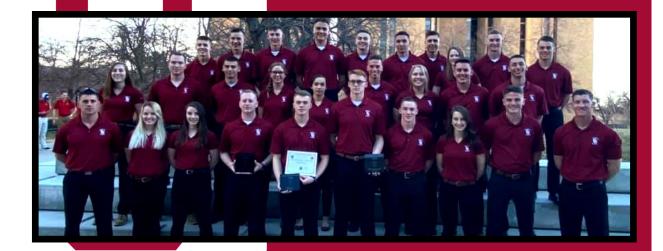
FLAGHOIST

SPRING 2020



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

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Commanding Officer Letter



Commanding Officer CAPT Hall, USN

Spring 2020 was a semester like we have never seen before. We started the semester continuing with our operations in temporary facilities at CATE 3 dorms while the Armory renovation continued. As we moved through a busy semester, everything abruptly changed at Spring Break due to COVID-19 and the shifting of all classes and events to online and, ultimately, the virtual commissioning of 7 new commissioned officers.

The semester started with a busy schedule that included the honor of the unit serving as judges for the Western Heights Drill Meet, where the students' professionalism was on display and recognized from all those involved. In addition, we had our Spring Dining In where I had the honor again to see the spirit and camaraderie of the unit. The true pride of the unit and lifelong friendships that are being developed were fully on display and exhibited the true character of the amazing young men and women that make up this unit. Soon after the dining-in, the potential impacts of COVID-19 became obvious, and full planning was started that led to full online operations for the Spring semester.

Although it was challenging to shift to online operations, I was impressed with how engaged all students remained with the program's requirements. Focusing on academics became the priority as we finished the semester and ultimately conducted a virtual commissioning using Facebook and Zoom.

The pride and honor of commissioning our new officers remained the same, even in an unusual execution.

With all the unplanned changes this semester, the unit remains strong and found a way to meet all requirements while operating from our temporary facilities and virtually. Ultimately, the unit completed commissioning for all senior class members without any waivers, even with the virtual end of the semester.

It remains an honor to be part of this unit. I look forward to the potential that we will all be back in person next semester and conducting operations back in the fully renovated Armory.

BOOMER SOONER!!!

Battalion Commander Letter



I was delighted to be given the privilege to serve this unit as the Battalion Commander for the Spring 2020 semester. The University of Oklahoma Naval ROTC unit has a long-standing tradition of excellence both inside the classroom and out in the fleet. To be a member of our great organization and to help lead it was truly an honor.

Starting my ROTC career as a freshman, I remember looking up to the seniors and wishing I had all the knowledge they did about the unit and how to flourish in it. I knew that with time and experience, I could one day be like many of them. However, I struggled deeply with comparing myself to others instead of focusing on my development as a midshipman and as a leader. Over time, I learned that while I can mirror certain traits I've seen in others, it's also important to be authentic. Instead of trying so hard to be someone else and to lead the way they did, I found that staying true to who I am as a leader made me more confident and the experience more enjoyable overall.

Despite our time being cut short and the challenges presented, I believe this semester was a success. This semester held many memories, whether they were wonderful, painful, or history-making. The members of this unit all have the unique opportunity to say they were in college and working for their commission during a global pandemic. Though COVID-19 halted many operations held within the unit, it did not keep us from working hard and pushing through the trying time. This challenge was new to everyone as we learned together how to continue with business as usual. While things might still not be back to normal come the Fall 2020 semester, I believe we all learned to appreciate the time we have with each other. I'm incredibly proud of this unit for keeping high spirits and for doing what they could to stay connected with each other. I could not ask for a better group of individuals to serve as the Battalion Commander this semester and I am truly humbled for being given the opportunity.



CAPT Lyle Hall
Commanding Officer

Captain Lyle Hall is a native of Cement, Oklahoma. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree and received his commission through the NROTC program.

Captain Hall most recently commanded USS VICKSBURG (CG 69) from May 2013 through July 2016, a 37- month command tour. He led VICKSBURG through her maintenance and training cycles as well as an operational deployment as Standing NATO Maritime Group Two flagship from December 2014 to July 2015. Captain Hall also commanded USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) from December 2009 through May 2011, leading the ship during her operational deployment to the Sixth Fleet Area of Operations in support of Sixth Fleet Theater Security Cooperation requirements. Additionally, he served as the Deputy Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 24 from June through September 2011.

Captain Hall's initial afloat assignment included tours as Main Propulsion Assistant,

Damage Control Assistant, and Combat Information Officer on USS FAHRION (FFG 22). Additional afloat tours have included Amphibious Operations Officer (N31) at COMPHIBRON 6, Combat Systems Officer on USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59), and Combat Systems Officer (N6) at COMDESRON 28. He also served afloat as Executive Officer on USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79).

Ashore, he earned a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1999. Additionally, he graduated from the inaugural class of the Joint Advanced Warfighting School at the Joint Forces Staff College in 2005 where he was awarded a Master of Science degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy. He has completed two Joint assignments ashore as a Senior Strategic Policy Analyst at US Joint Forces Command in the J5 (Strategy and Policy) Directorate and as the Branch Chief for Lessons Learned at US Special Operations Command.

CAPT Hall assumed command of the NROTC Unit at the University of Oklahoma in July 2016.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and various campaign and unit awards.

Commander Brandon Lantis is a native of Miles City, Montana. He enlisted in the Navy in 1992, completed boot camp in Great Lakes, IL and Operation Specialist "A" in Damneck, VA, before serving onboard the USS MERRILL (DD 976). In 1997 CDR Lantis transferred to Naval Recruiting District Kansas City where he served as the Delayed Entry Program Coordinator. While at NRD, he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and was selected for Officer Candidate School.

In 2000 CDR Lantis was commissioned and completed aviation indoctrination and primary flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola. After completing Advanced Flight Training in San Antonio, TX, he was designated as a Naval Flight Officer and awarded the Commander Alden C. Markey Award for top Naval Student in 2001, before reporting to Fleet Replacement Squadron SEVEN at Tinker AFB, OK.

CDR Lantis reported to his first fleet squadron, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron THREE (VQ-3) in 2002 where he served as the Public Affairs Officer, Legal Officer, Aircraft Division Officer and NATOPS Lead Instructor and earned a Mission Commander Evaluator qualification.



CDR Brandon Lantis
Executive Officer

In 2005 he joined the Fleet Replacement Squadron VQ-7 as an FRS Instructor, where he was designated as a Weapon Tactics Instructor, was awarded Strategic Communications Wing One Naval Flight Officer of the Year and earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Naval Post Graduate School.

In 2008 CDR Lantis transferred to the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) serving as the Assistant Strike Operations Office, and earning qualification as Officer of the Deck Underway, Command Duty Officer Underway, and Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer and completed Joint Professional Military Education phase 1.

In 2010 he returned to Tinker AFB, OK as the Wing Safety Officer for Strategic Communications Wing One, prior to reporting to VQ-3 for his department head tour. In his department head tour he served as the Safety Officer, Tactics Officer and the Maintenance Officer and was selected as the Navy and Marine Corps Association Task Force 124 Department Head leadership award winner.

In 2014 CDR Lantis transferred to Strategic Communications Wing One and served as Deputy for Training Readiness and Assurance/Assessment and the Deputy for Safety.

In 2017 CDR Lantis reported as the Strike Operations Officer onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). CDR Lantis assumed the duties as Executive Officer University of Oklahoma ROTC in January 2019.

CDR Lantis has completed multiple deployments in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

Commander Lantis' personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (6), Navy Achievement Medal (3), Good Conduct Medal (2) and various campaign and unit awards.



LT Wesley McDaniel Freshman/Sophomore Advisor

Lieutenant Wesley McDaniel is a native of Lubbock, Texas and attended Lubbock Christian University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in 2011. After working in Law Enforcement for over eight years, he was selected to attend OCS in Newport, Rhode Island, where he was commissioned an Ensign in January 2014.

After receiving his commission, LT McDaniel received orders to MCM CREW DOMINANT onboard the USS CHAMPION (MCM-4), home ported in San Diego, CA. While on the CHAMPION, he served as the Electrical Officer, the Engineering Training Officer, the Assistant Chief Engineer, and eventually the Training Officer for the command.

LT McDaniel's second Division Officer tour was onboard the USS SOMER-SET (LPD-25), home ported in San Diego, CA, where he served as the Assistant First Lieutenant. LT McDaniel was with the SOMERSET on her 8-month maiden deployment through the Sulu Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, and the Persian Gulf.

In May of 2018 LT McDaniel reported to the University of Oklahoma NROTC unit as an Assistant Professor of Naval Science. Here he teaches Naval Operations and Seamanship as well as Chart Navigation, and serves as the Freshman/Sophomore advisor to the Midshipman Battalion.

LT McDaniel's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

LT Marshall Atwood is from Garland, TX. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and received his commission through the NROTC program.

LT Atwood's initial assignment was to the USS Rhode Island (SSBN 740). Here, he served in various division officer roles during multiple strategic deterrent patrols, a nuclear missile offload and the boat's Engineering and Refueling Overhaul that included the removal, installation, and testing of a new reactor core. He completed one deployment to AFRICOM/CENTCOM onboard the USS Florida (SSGN 728) as the Communications Officer.

LT Atwood transferred to the pre-commissioned submarine USS Delaware (SSN 791) as the Assistant Operations Officer and Assistant Engineer to oversee final construction and acceptance testing prior to sea-trials and commissioning.

LT Atwood is currently enrolled in the Naval Postgraduate School to complete a Master of Systems Analysis by March 2020. He relieved the Junior/Senior/STA-21 Navy Advisor at the University of Oklahoma in May 2019.

LT Atwood's personal decorations include the Navy Achievement Medal (3), and various campaign awards.



LT Marshall Atwood Junior/Senior/STA-21 Navy Advisor



Capt. Jayson Reimer Marine Corps Officer Instructor

Captain Jayson Rimer was born in Altus, Oklahoma and later raised in Papillion, Nebraska where he graduated from Papillion La Vista South High School. He graduated from Iowa State University and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May 2013. After completing The Basic School in November 2014, he reported for duty to 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as the Battalion Adjutant and Legal Officer. In January 2015, he attended the Basic Manpower Officer Course in Camp Johnson, North Carolina.

In March 2015, he returned for duty with 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to serve as Battalion Adjutant and Legal Officer. In preparation for deployment, he participated in Integrated Training Exercise 3-15 to 29 Palms, California. During this exercise, he was promoted to First Lieutenant. In August 2015, the Battalion deployed as the Ground Combat Element in support of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF-CR-AF) and as the Command Element of Black Sea Rotational Force 15.2 for six months. During the deployment, his section verified, validated, and tracked accountability of approximately 1,261 personnel, including a newly established Combined Arms Company, for the entire Ground Combat Element of SPMAGTF-CR-AF, spanning a total of 15 countries, which included three continents.

Following his return from deployment in February 2016, Captain Rimer participated in Mountain Training Exercise 5 -16 to Bridgeport, California. In March 2016, Captain Rimer attended Manpower Officer Course in Camp Johnson, North Carolina. In February 2017, he deployed to Okinawa, Japan in support of the Unit Deployment Program 17.1 rotation for six months. During the deployment, Captain Rimer directly participated in the FUJI VIPER 17-4 Exercise, Camp Fuji, Japan and the Korean Marine Exchange Program (KMEP) 17-11 Exercise, South Korea.

In September 2017, Captain Rimer transferred to 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, 2d Marine Division as the Battalion Adjutant and Manpower Officer. While with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and attended the US Army Basic Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. During this time, Captain Rimer was selected for his current assignment as Marine Officer Instructor at the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, University of Oklahoma and reported in June 2018. He is responsible for preparing Marine Option Midshipmen for Officer Candidate School and serving as the Marine Corps representative to the unit.

Captain Rimer graduated with Magna Cum Laude from Iowa State University (2013) with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, with a minor in Speech Communications and Military Studies. His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Gunnery Sergeant Bruce L. Best Jr. enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserves in February of 1999 as a 0844 Fire Directional Coordinance Operator. He graduated as a contract Private First Class from recruit training at MCRD San Diego, CA. Upon completion of Boot Camp and Marine Combat Training (MCT), he was sent to Fort Sill, OK for formal MOS training. In August of 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and assigned to 5th BN 14th Marines Head Quarters Battery, Seal Beach, CA where he served as a reservist until January of 2000. LCpl Best was then transferred to Weapons Co 2nd BN 23rd Marines in Port Hueneme, CA. He served as an 81mm Mortarman, FDC Chief, FSC Chief, and Platoon Sergeant until April of 2007. He was promoted to the rank of corporal in July 2000. Corporal Best was activated in January 2002 to II MEF in support of Homeland Security at Camp Pendleton, CA. Staying activated, Corporal Best deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In October of 2003 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was given the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with "V" for his actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt Best remained in the reserves until April of 2007 where he was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps Reserves.

December 2007 Sgt Best re-enlisted onto active duty and lateral moved to the 7051 MOS AirCraft Rescue Fire Fighting. He was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Headquarter Headquarters Squadron. He served as a basic fireman, rescueman, and Assistant Section leader.

In December 2010, Sgt Best was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Iwakuni Japan. During his 24 month tour he supported multiple exercises with the Air Operations Dept in support of Foel Eagle at Camp Mujuk, Korea, Southern Frontier & Talisman Saber in Rock Hampton and Townsville Australia. In between his operational commitments, Sgt Best Coached the MCAS Iwakuni Perry high school baseball and football teams.

GySgt Best received orders to report to Parris Island, SC for Drill Instructor School Class 2-13. Upon completion of Drill Instructor School, Sgt Best was assigned to 3rd RTR BN Mike Co as a Drill Instructor. December of 2013, he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was then assigned Kilo Co where served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor. In April of 2015 he was then reassigned to Mike Co and served as the Chief Drill Instructor. SSgt Best was then assigned to be an Instructor at Drill Instructor School.

Upon completion of his tour at Parris Island, SC, SSgt Best was assigned back to MCAS HHS Camp Pendleton, CA Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting where he held the billets of section leader and training chief before being promoted to GySgt in February of 2017. During his time at HHS, GySgt Best held the billets of ARFF Section Leader, Crash Chief, and Material Chief. After spending 24 months in the MCAS Operations Dept, GySgt was assigned to be the Squadron GySgt and then Acting SgtMaj for a combined 7 months.

In May 2019 GySgt Best became the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at The University of Oklahoma in Norman.

GySgt Best's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" and two gold stars in lieu of 3rd award, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with three bronze star in lieu of 4th award, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal with one bronze star in lieu of 2nd award, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Reserve Mobilization Medal with "M" device and the Combat Action Ribbon.



GySgt. Bruce Best
Assistant Marine Corps
Officer Instructor



Jennifer Ille Admin

Jennifer was born in Hollywood, Florida and later moved to Michigan and then Oklahoma. She graduated from Norman High in 1993. Jennifer joined the Air Force in March 1994 and served until July 2001. She graduated from Oklahoma City Community College December 2010 with an Associate's Degree Diversified Studies of Science and again in May 2013 with an Associate's Degree in Psychology. She transferred to the University of Oklahoma in fall of 2013 and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Multidisciplinary Studies May 2017. Jennifer is married with two boys.

Pete was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina and grew up in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He graduated from Douglass High School in 1998. He joined the United States Navy in March of 2000 and served until 2007. He graduated from the University of Phoenix with a degree in Health Care Administration/Management in 2014.



Reginald Pete Supply

Battalion Staff



Battalion Executive Officer MIDN 1/C Megan McAlester



Battalion Commanding Officer MIDN 1/C Coral Warren



Company Commander MIDN 2/C Tyler Goehler



Battalion Command Sergeant Major MIDN 1/C Zane Fortunato



S-1 Administration MIDN 2/C Castleberry



S-3 Operations MIDN 2/C Robert Donahue



S-4 Supply MIDN 2/C John Lovett



S-5 Public Affairs MIDN 3/C Nautika Cruse

Senior Class



MIDN 1/C Annalee Blake North Oaks, MN Multidisciplinary Studies



MIDN 1/C Zane Fortunato Keller, TX Business



MIDN 1/C Alexander Lee Madison, MS Business Management



MIDN 1/C Megan McAlester McAlester, OK Computer Engineering



MIDN 1/C Savanah Pipkin Bethel , CT Biomedical Engineering



MIDN 1/C Coral Warren Springfield, MO Sociology



MIDN 1/C Michael Voeller Norman, OK Aerospace Engineering

Junior Class



MIDN 2/C Patrick Castleberry Tulsa, OK Mechanical Engineering



MIDN 2/C Robert Donahue Jacksonville, AR Heath and Exercise Science



MIDN 2/C Tyler Goehler Owasso, OK Mechanical Engineering



MIDN 2/C John Lovett Norman, OK Mechanical Engineering



MIDN 2/C Davis McDermott Piedmont, OK Meteorology



MIDN 2/C Jake Reynolds Edmond, OK Mechanical Engineering

Sophomore Class



MIDN 3/C Casey Church Mansfield, TX **Electrical Engineering**



MIDN 3/C Kyle Clement Shawnee, OK **Multidisciplinary Studies**



Springfield, MO Finance



MIDN 3/C Nautika Cruse MIDN 3/C Courtney Eddings Skiatook, OK Chemistry



MIDN 3/C Dillon Jones Sapulpa, OK **Aviation Pilot**



MIDN 3/C Callahan Kelly Keller, TX **Business**



MIDN 3/C Rylan McConaughey Trophy Club, TX Finance



MIDN 3/C Jacob Muckey Grapevine, TX Criminology



MIDN 3/C Jared Radcliffe McKinney, TX **Computer Science**



MIDN 3/C Andrew Scott California, MD **Latin American Studies**

Freshmen Class



MIDN 4/C Brett Braun Haslet, TX **Aviation Management**



MIDN 4/C Alec Brown Alma, AR **Political Science**



Sunnyvale, TX **Energy Management**



MIDN 4/C Tyler Earnest MIDN 4/C Seth Grundmeyer Norco, CA **Political Science**



MIDN 4/C Isaac Mouritzen San Diego, CA **Petroleum Engineering**



MIDN 4/C Illyas Nasri Plano, TX, **Economics**



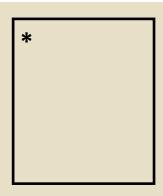
MIDN 4/C Grayson Perron Plano, TX **International Business**



MIDN 4/C Grace Rodgers Danville, CA **Aerospace Engineering**



MIDN 4/C Drew Russell Stillwater, OK Mechanical Engineering



MIDN 4/C Catherine Strevett Nobel, OK **Aerospace Engineering**



MIDN 4/C Jacob Simon Perry, OK **International Security**

^{*} Picture missing due to campus closure.

MECEP

*

SSgt Joshua Bott Papillion, NE Finance



Sgt Tanner Craig Pittsburg, KS History *

GySgt Jordan Drake Moore, OK History

*

Sgt Rebecca Reed Tulsa, OK Finance



SSgt Antonio Ruiz Hooker, OK History

^{*} Picture missing due to campus closure.





The unit had the opportunity to assist and judge the NJROTC Drill Meet at Western Heights High School. Supporting and encouraging future Midshipmen.





This year's Dining In gave the opportunity for the Midshipmen and Active Duty of the unit to build comradery over a dinner and a fresh cup of grog.







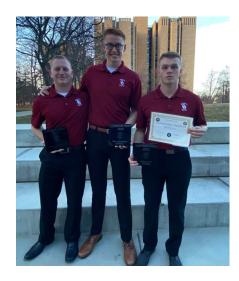
MECEP Jordan Drake was promoted from Staff Sergeant to Gunnery Sergeant in a ceremony in front of Gaylord Memorial Stadium. With his years of service and wealth of knowledge he continues to inspire the unit, embodying "leadership by example".





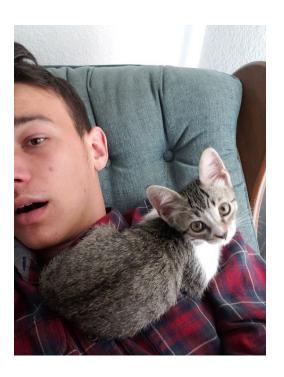
The unit participated in the University of Colorado Drill Meet. After months of hard work and preparation, teams placed in multiple events and MIDN Jones was awarded the top Drill Commander.



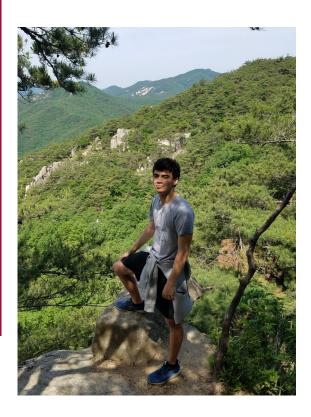








The 2020 Corona Virus
Pandemic brought the
semester to an early end. As
campus was closed,
members of the unit found
ways to adjust to the new
normal, maintaining
academic and physical
standards.





Despite the COVID-19 quarantine, the commissioning ceremony of graduating seniors still commenced in an online format. Commissioning four Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants into the Navy and Marine Corps



Alumni Corner

Our Alumni organization is The University of Oklahoma Naval Alumni League Inc. (incorporated in 1990). The League is dedicated to supporting the Naval ROTC Unit at the University of Oklahoma. We do this through financial support of the Unit's activities, scholarships, and using our collective resources to further the Unit's goals.

This Unit is our collective heritage and we intend for it to be the best in the nation. Furthermore we are committed to all OU Naval ROTC Alumni, Staff, and friends of the unit through networking and mutual support.

You can engage with the Alumni effort by contacting the Armory at 405 325-2021 or email at navalrotc@ou.edu. Connect with the alumni on social media:

Facebook: OU Naval ROTC Alumni

Alumni web page: www.ounrotcalumni.org

OU NROTC web page: We have a page for Alumni and links to the FB

page & Alumni web page.

Executive Board Members

Mr. Dan Churchman, Chairman Class of '82

Mr. James H. Spann, Jr, Vice Chairman Class of '82

Mr. John D. Rickards Class of '68

Mr. Tim Stanley, Class of '69

CAPT Rod Clark, USN-R Class of 84

Mr. Jay Senter, USMC, Class of 90

CAPT Lyle Hall, USN Professor of Naval Science

(Looking for new members from the 1995-2010 period. If you are interested, send an email to Dan Churchman (dchurchman@pobox.com).



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