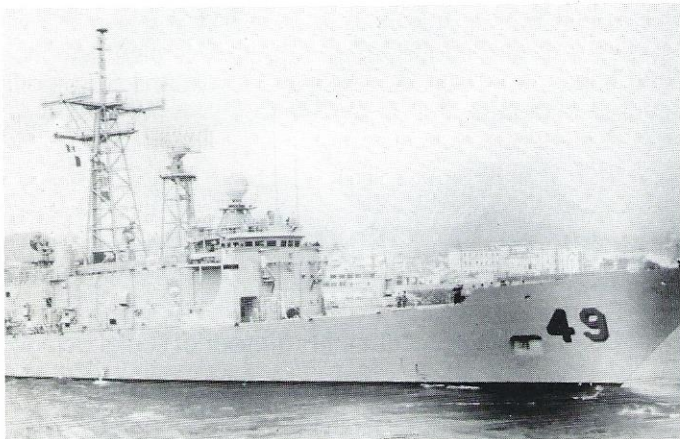


Fall 1994



# THE COMMONWEALTH

Hampton University   Norfolk State University   Old Dominion University



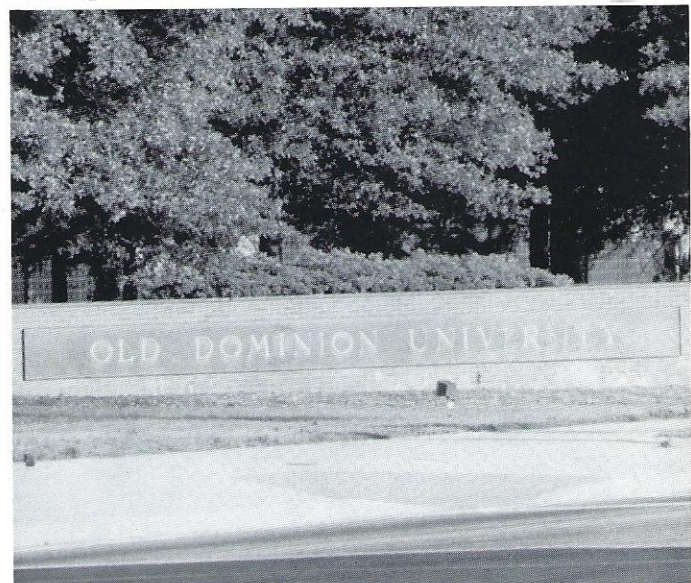
# THE PLACE WHERE OFFICERS ARE MADE

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Hampton Roads is the largest consortium in the nation. Developed as a prototype in 1982, NROTC Unit Hampton Roads is comprised of three accredited institutions of higher learning. They are Hampton University, Norfolk University, and Old Dominion University. The Hampton Roads Consortium commissions the largest number of minority officers for naval service - more than any other NROTC unit in the nation. It is here at NROTC Unit Hampton Roads where high school graduates and fleet input Sailors and Marines achieve their dreams by becoming commissioned officers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

Students enrolled at the unit represent a wide spectrum of creeds, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds. They also are representative of the large number of commissioning programs offered by the Navy. Their academic fields of study range from Electrical Engineering and Physics to History and English. Many are the top students in their class for their particular major. Some are star athletes and community service volunteers. It is here that midshipmen and officer candidates are trained to become professional officers for naval service. Virginia's Tidewater area is a haven for naval activity with 4 major naval installations all within 30 minutes of each other, including the world's largest naval base. Our curriculum is especially designed to use many of these facilities as effective training aids.

To be a naval officer takes honor, integrity, dedication, virtue, patience, motivation, and determination. It will test you to your limits, and then push you beyond. The Navy and Marine Corps comprise an elite group of individuals. They are the best and brightest this country has to offer, for they are entrusted with the awesome responsibility of its defense. The operative word is "commitment," and it all starts here, at NROTC Unit Hampton Roads.

LT Robert Edwards



Top: Norfolk State University; Middle: Hampton University; Bottom: Old Dominion University.

The new company in the battalion is showing its worth, once again. The youngest company of the unit, Echo Company, won the prestigious award of Color Company for the spring 1994 semester. Echo Company met the challenges of Captain's Cup, uniform inspections, and grade point averages to earn this coveted honor over the battalion's other four companies. The company was led to this great accomplishment by Ensign Giampetro, a newly commissioned officer and the current Midshipman Battalion Commander, Midshipman Brigitte Lott.

Color Company is now under the command of OC David Rhone and OC John Lenox, the Company Executive Officer. The leaders of Echo Company are working on leading Color Company to the top once again, and earning Echo Company a place in NROTC Unit Hampton Roads history.

Unknown

### A Word From the Semper Fi President

One of the attributes of Marines in war time is that they have always been faithful to one another. "Marines do not leave their wounded," is one of the proud mottos that characterizes the Corps. This motto has been proven on the battle field time and time again, but should that motto be any less strong once the smoke of the battle has cleared.

The twenty-four hour run for Disabled American Veterans is a means by which Sailors, Marines, and citizens of the United States can carry out those mottos on the other side of the battle field, our back yard. This run is our opportunity to communicate our appreciation to those Americans who put their lives on the line to protect us and our interests in various armed conflicts. We must not leave our wounded.

One of the immediate needs of some of the veterans in the Hampton Roads area is a means of adequate transportation for wheel chair veterans. They are currently using a very old school bus that has been equipped with a wheel chair lift. The problem with this bus is that many of the veterans are unable to bear the extremely rough ride that the bus generates. The local DAV chapters are attempting to raise \$80,000 to purchase a bus that is better suited for transporting handicap veterans.

The Semper Fidelis Society believes that we must do all that we can to see that these veterans receive adequate care, and we will continue our efforts to remain faithful to these Americans as long as a need exists.

MIDN Pete Griffin-ODU



*Transferring the colors to Echo Company, the Color Company. In attendance, President Wilson and Captain Weaver.*

### Doris (Dorie) Miller Scholarship Recipient

On September 14, 1994, Midshipman Kelvin Reynolds was honored at Norfolk State University with the Dorie Miller Scholarship Award. The scholarship sponsored by Norfolk State University and the Tidewater Chapter of the National Naval Officer Association is designed to assist a potential minority Navy or Marine Corps officer in attaining a college education. Midshipman Reynolds received the scholarship for his sustained all-around achievement while attending Tabernacle Baptist High School in Portsmouth.

The award is named after Dorie Miller, a Mess Management Specialist who was stationed aboard USS WEST VIRGINIA during the



*Midn Reynolds being presented the Dorie Miller Scholarship from NSU President Harrison Wilson.*

Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. It was during the attack that Dorie Miller, who had no previous machine gun training, manned an empty machine gun mount and shot down several attacking Japanese aircraft. For his bravery and courage in the face of overwhelming enemy forces, Miller was awarded the nation's second highest honor, the Navy Cross. Partly because of Miller's heroic actions, the U.S. Navy reversed its policy of racial discrimination within the officer ranks and eventually allowed African-Americans to receive commissions.

The Doris Miller Scholarship could not be awarded to a more deserving individual. Midshipman Reynolds maintained a 2.8 GPA in high school while participating in three varsity sports. He also dedicated many hours of his spare time to community service as a volunteer at local area nursing homes. Midshipman Reynolds says he "owes it all to his parents. They have always been there for me, and they have always given me some good advice. I think everyone should listen to their parents and elders a lot more, because they have been through a lot."

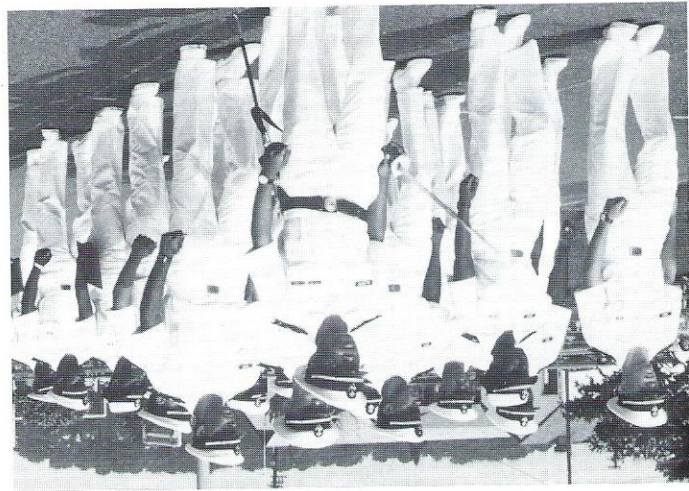
LT Robert Edwards

shipmen provided the strength and stamina to help the old fogies get through the strenuous obstacle course at the end of the week. There were plenty of opportunities to excel, and everyone was challenged at least once.

Indeed, this week of rigorous training was just the beginning. It signals the start to a career as a naval officer.

In all, the midshipmen and officer candidates that attend O-week will indeed become some of the best officers that the Navy and Marine Corps will ever see or hear about. The camaraderie, unity, intense training, and teamwork will no doubt carry us throughout our naval careers.

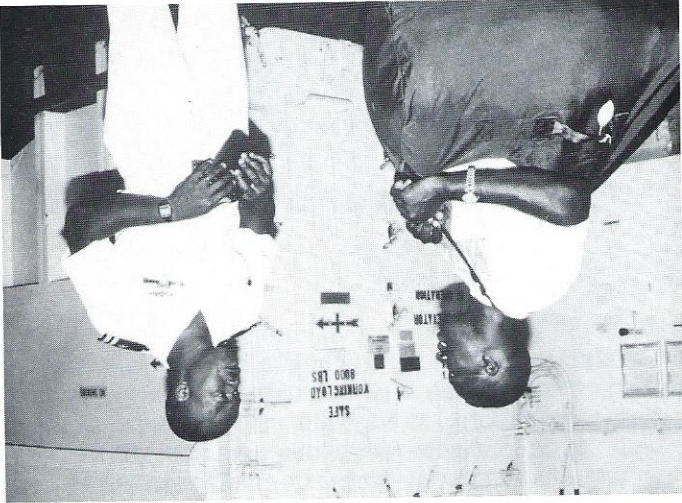
MIDN Brian Jackson



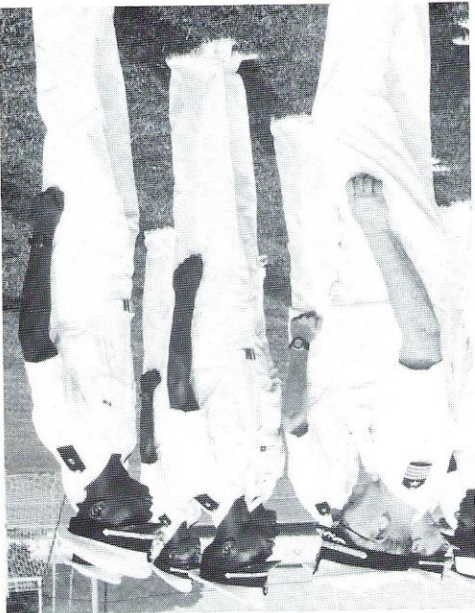
"Eyes... right!"



"I (state your name)"



When have we seen this before?



"Nice hat"