

Reflective Journal Entry - Week 3

Date: 26JUN2023

Hours Completed: 150 hours

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how social media is related to Operational Security (OPSEC)
- Understand the Importance of Operational Security (OPSEC)
- Develop effective leadership skills.
- Enhance communication and mentorship abilities.
- Foster teamwork and discipline among Midshipman Candidates.
- Ensure all MCs graduate NSI

This is my last week at the internship at Great Lakes RTC. Monday I presented a brief about OPSEC. This was a huge success for the Candidates. All of them were engaging and asked lots of questions about their social networks and how they relate to their Navy career. The brief lasted around 1 hour. The previous reflection went into detail about what I talked about. The last week was more of a mentorship phase between the MIDN (me) and the MCs. My peers and I held question-and-answer sessions. We were asked questions about college life and how to balance it with NROTC. We also did an intense physical training exercise. I was told that my participation was optional, but I did it because I wanted to lead by example.

Some thing I learned this week is how well I am at time management. We are supposed to punish the candidates if they do anything wrong. An example of this would be if they are moving slowly and need to move with speed and intensity. Just like any boot camp environment. I played a game called 2 Sheets and a Blanket. I tell the MCs "2 sheets and a blanket on the line". The MCs have to rip the sheets and blanket off the bed and they have to make their bed over and over again. It was interesting being on the other side because 2 years ago I was the one getting yelled at, and now I'm the one yelling.

The last few days were spent making sure the compartment was cleaned and ready to leave. We also made sure the MCs knew how to put on their whites and properly wear them. Most of the MCs put it on well and proudly. There were a few who didn't properly put it on, such as their name tag being too low or high, and the whites having a lot of wrinkles. Once they were all situated we had all the MCs pack their belongings. This includes everything they received at NSI and their belongings which were confiscated from the beginning. They were granted a 5-minute phone call, which the MCs were super thankful for. We were yelling at them to stand at attention while standing making their calls. After that, we put them to bed in 2030. They were super excited to sleep because this is their last night at Great Lakes.

I woke up at 0400 to wake the MCs up at 0430. As I walked in the firewatch was posted and told them to turn on the lights, and the MIDN and I yelled "Lights Lights Lights". They were

very happy because this was the last time they would hear those words. We dressed them in their Summer Whites. Then we marched them down to the graduation hall. Then about a 30-minute Navy ceremony later, they were officially MIDN. We wished them the best and they all were taken to the airport to fly back home, and I flew back home as well.