

L



" "O" 1% 23 ~ 045(° 67 7, 8 7 " \$8" 1 9 ~ O ~ fl & * ; < \ fl 7 # 16 ~ > ~

On February 24, 2020, all of Georgia Tech's ROTC branches were treated to a rare brief by the newly appointed Chief of Space Operations, General John Raymond, on the recently created US Space Force. General Raymond himself is a graduate of Clemson University's Air Force ROTC program, class of 1984. He was first stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base with the 321st Strategic Missile Wing, later moving to both England and the Pentagon where he worked with Air Force Space Command for many years, excelling at the highest levels of command and control. General Raymond was appointed Space Force's first Chief of Space Operations on December 20, 2019 by President Donald Trump. As of now, General Raymond is the only member of the US Space Force, unless a senior enlisted service member is sworn in. In his brief, General Raymond discussed the history (albeit brief) of the Space Force, from its beginnings as Space Command within the Air Force to its eventual separation in late 2019, analogizing the modern Space Force-Air Force relationship to the Navy-

Marine Corps. The necessity for the Space Force to become its own branch was recognized in 2007, when China destroyed one of their own satellites, creating thousands of pieces of harmful debris in the public domain of near-Earth space. This temporarily halted both commercial and scientific satellite work, causing the US government to realize that space was the newest and most volatile warfighting domain. If the US wanted to continue its forward presence across the globe, it would absolutely require the security of space. General Raymond then highlighted how the rest of the US military would greatly benefit from the addition of a sixth branch. Primarily, the global defense era of space

rely on satellite technology across not just the entire military, but the government and the private sector as well would be protected. General Raymond made very clear the importance of space to not just Naval operations, but everyday civilian life as well. Not wanting to deprive another branch of quality leadership, General Raymond stated that the Space Force plans to find its senior leadership by asking experienced leaders in the private sector to come aboard through some type of accessions program and make the Space Force's foundations rock-solid. The Space Force also already has some junior leadership coming aboard - Georgia Tech's Air Force ROTC program has one Senior commissioning into the Space Force this summer. General Raymond closed out the briefing by presenting, among other branches' distinguished cadets, Midshipman 2/C Nguyen with a Challenge Coin, for showing exemplary leadership in the battalion. The Georgia Tech NROTC battalion is exceedingly grateful for the opportunity to hear from such a distinguished and trusted leader as General Raymond. The Space Force has a future written in the stars!



fi "" fifi "" @* A\$5fi & * ~ < %& ~ ~
 fi & * ; < ~ "O"OBL/3 ~

?

"" ~ ~ ~ ~ /fi

fi 4Z° ž! ž! ~

projects such as updating the Academics Policy to better suit the needs of the Midshipmen. While most of what MIDN Rao does is behind the scenes being a conduit for information to pass between the staff and permanent staff, he has also been changing more prominent parts of our Battalion. A well known fact within the Battalion, MIDN Rao started out in the AFROTC program and later transferred to the Navy, one of the structural elements of their program that he appreciates is the constant evaluation they undergo. MIDN Rao and the rest of the leadership in the Battalion have combated the lack of evaluation with a surprise uniform inspection and the promise of more to come.

Most people have role models that they base their leadership style on. MIDN Rao explained to the Lookout that one of the struggles he has had to face is flushing out his own style. MIDN Rao said, "I often look at the way others lead and I compare myself to them. I think, 'oh, that's how you are supposed to do it'". One of the hardest lessons he has learned is that there are many paths that all converge at the same location. MIDN Rao continues to flush out his leader-

ship style during this semester in order to be prepared to commission into the aviation community.

When questioned about the two leadership characteristics that he felt were the most important to emulate, MIDN Rao responded with certainty that it is essential for leaders to be able to respectfully question authority and to push to create a higher standard. Although MIDN Rao believes that the respectful questioning of authority and pushing to create a higher standard are non-negotiable, he also stresses the importance of empathy. MIDN Rao has focused on empathizing and getting to know the Midshipmen in this Battalion. He feels that this is his role as a spring semester BN XO. MIDN Rao explained that, "In the fall, the leaders need to set the tone and get everyone, especially the 4/C, into the groove of ROTC, however the spring is more about mentorship and learning how to be an officer". That is one of the reasons that MIDN Rao has been actively working towards getting to know people in the Battalion better. He hopes that he will leave a legacy of really caring about those that he leads.

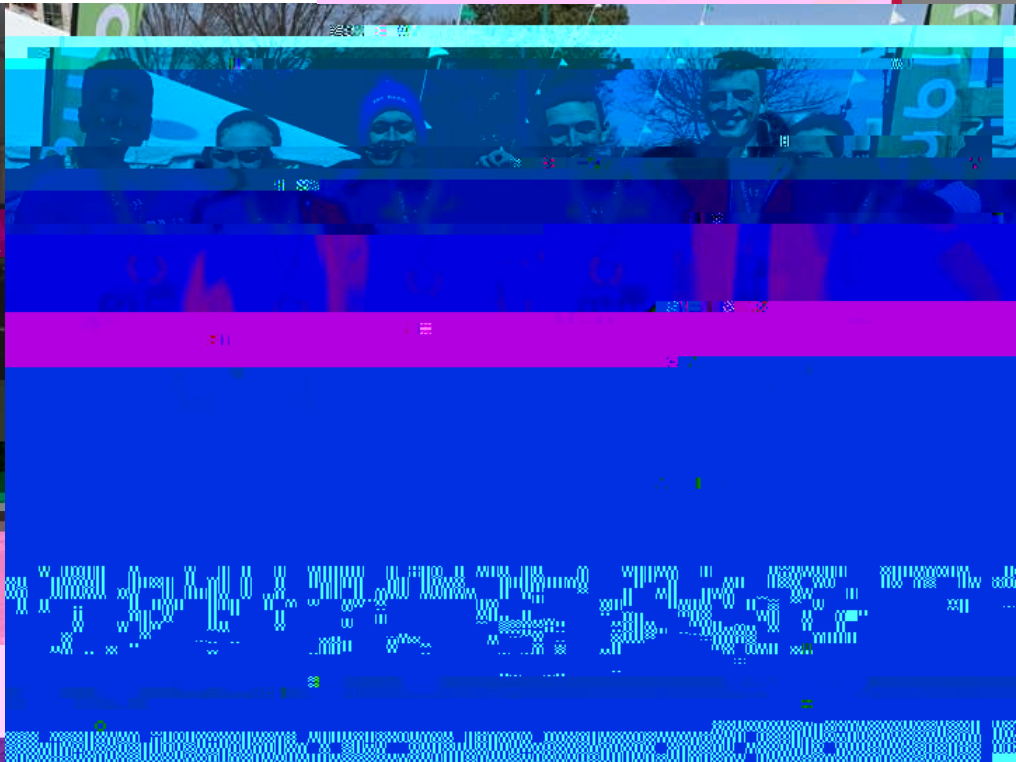
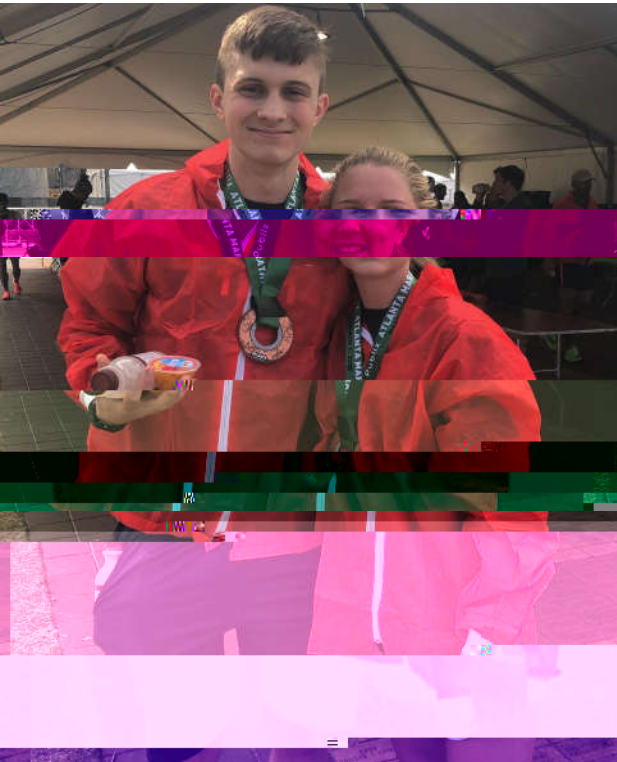
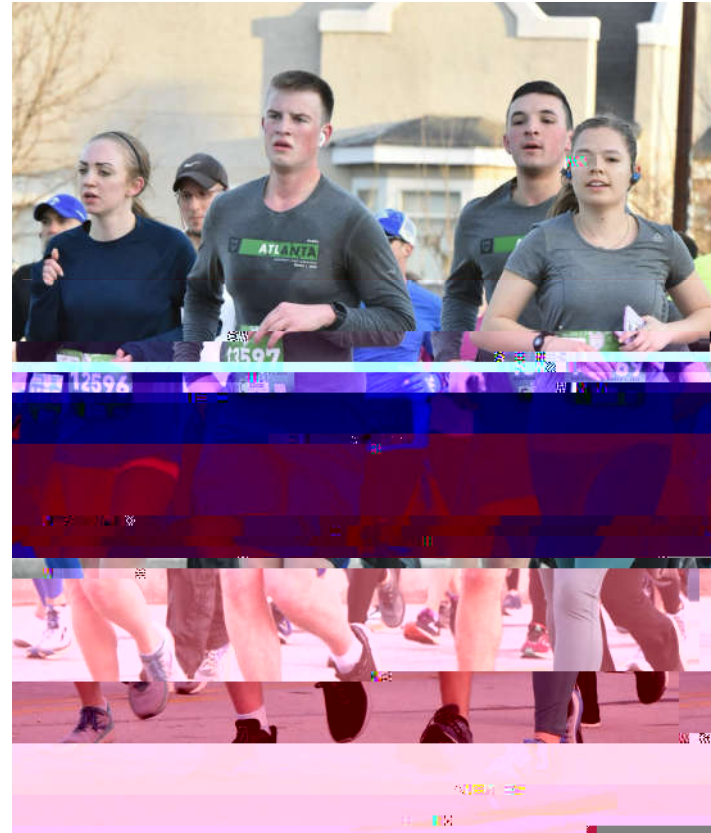


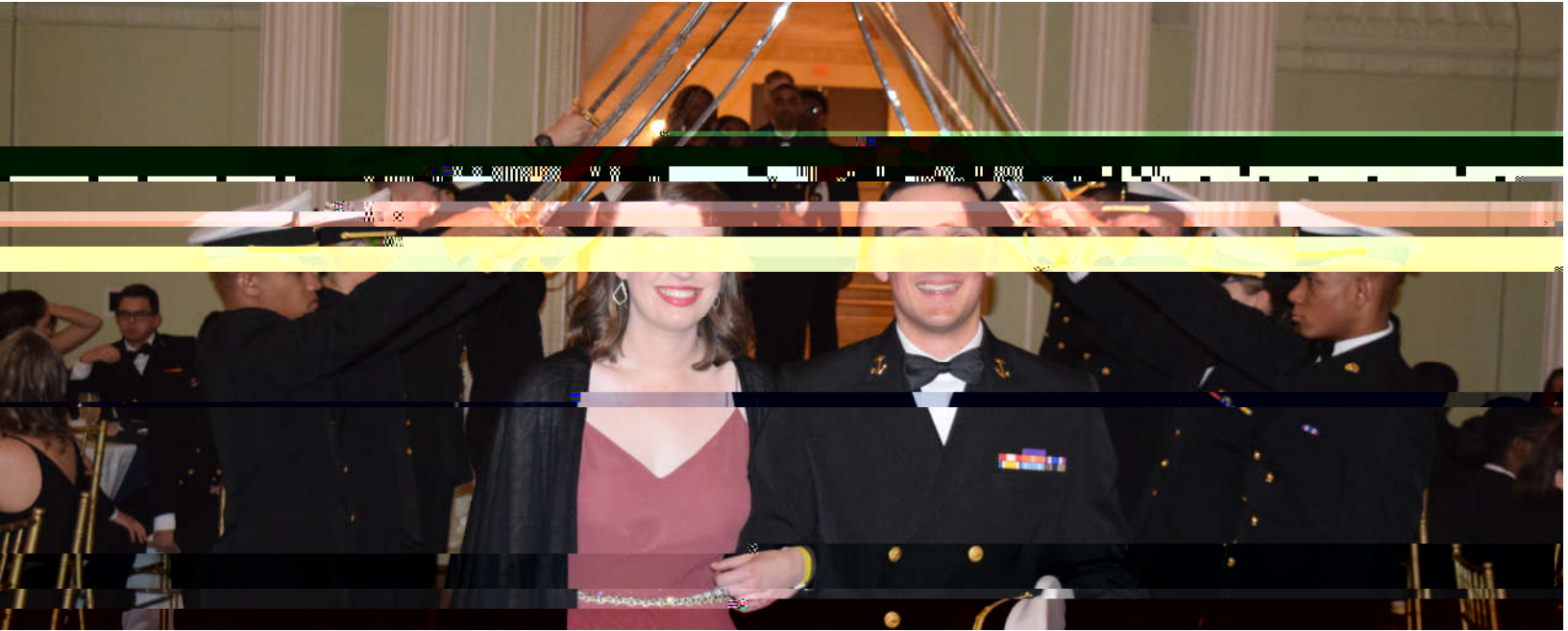
Marathon PT Midshipmen



On March 1, midshipmen from Marathon PT were a part of "America's Marathon Weekend" in the heart of Atlanta. MIDN Webb, Rao, Boyer, Beck, Ward, Bowes, Williams, and Sigut all finished the full marathon, while MIDN Blackwell ran the half marathon. The events started and finished close to Georgia Tech's campus in Centennial Olympic Park, where thousands of people gathered before sunrise the morning of to see what they were made of as they hit the course.

The Marathon PT midshipmen had been training since the beginning of the fall semester to accomplish their goals. On Monday evenings, they could be found on the track doing various speed workouts. They then pushed their limits on Friday mornings with long-distance runs. Star3ng o with their first run in September being only 3 miles long to their longest run in February of 20 miles and for each run in between, this group kept one foot in front of the other, eagerly awai3ng the moment they would breeze across the finish line on race day.





' FILEOFL (~ O~ 19/3 * tEt1@L11

fl & * ?<~ tQ /12

The Naval Ball is one of the most exci3ng

