

Commanding Officer, RTC



To the men and women of Class 3-78:

The 17 weeks of Officer Candidate School depicted in this yearbook have been a time of learning, of development, of trial, and proof. Each of you has absorbed in this brief period a concentrated dose of basic knowledge about our Service and its varied and significant responsibilities. Each of you has learned fundamental military and nautical skills required of our officers. Each of you has observed, studied, and put into practice the high standards of personal conduct, initiative, responsibility, and accomplishment which are the hallmark of our officer corps. We have not made this learning and development easy for you... we have put you to the test, and you have provided the proof.

You enter the officer ranks as apprentices, to further develop and polish the basic professional skills and knowledge gained here. But you do so with two measures of confidence: The first is the confidence of our staff that you can and will do the job now set before you; the second is your own confidence... that self-confidence born of trial and success as members of a team and as individuals.

I hope that the seas will be calm for you and the wind always at your back. But even if the seas become mountainous and a full gale is in your face, I am confident that you will always do your duty well and bring honor to the Nation and Service whose uniform you wear.

Godspeed.

CHARLES L. BLAHA