



“This cruise was a life experience”

-John Beveridge

Foreign Exchange Cruise

While many NC State students were busy at summer school or at their summer jobs, John Beveridge got to take part in a once in a lifetime opportunity. John, a senior in Physics and a 1st Class Midshipmen in the Naval ROTC Wolf Pack Battalion here at NC State traveled to Yokosuka, Japan where he would take part in a Naval Foreign Exchange Cruise.



As soon as John landed in Japan he was immediately transported to the Japanese Ship Hatakazi (the “Fighting Kite”) where he would carry out his joint training with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF). He was assigned a running mate aboard his ship and was completely incorporated in the daily routine of the ship and the life of a Japanese sailor.



John’s days aboard the JS Hatakazi were very busy and anything but dull. From day to day he would be participating in war games with U.S. Ships, watching demonstrations of the Japanese weapons systems, or taking part in daily drills on the high seas. His time was not only limited to the ship but also included a few well needed port calls, seeing such sights as the Shinto gate, the Japanese Naval Academy, and the Buddhist monastery at Miajima. John also had time to take part in tea ceremonies, Judo, and Kendo.

As soon as his travels had started they came to a halt and it was time for John to come home. So John packed his things and came back to NC State so he could attend class for the fall 2008 semester. John commented on his trip saying; “This cruise was a life experience and I highly suggest foreign exchange cruises for all midshipmen.”