



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
121 BLAKE ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-5000

USNAINST 1531.48A
1/Comdt

MAR 19 2002

USNA INSTRUCTION 1531.48A

From: Superintendent

Subj: PROGRAM OF SUPPORT BETWEEN USNA CLASSES THAT SPAN 50 YEARS

1. Purpose. To provide information and policy regarding opportunities for binding current USNA classes and Alumni classes 50 years senior.

2. Cancellation. USNAINST 1531.48

3. Background. In recent years, classes of Alumni have informally attempted to establish a bond with the midshipman class 50 years their junior by attending major events important to the junior class. For example, the Class of 1950 initiated a program to personally present gold ensign and 2nd lieutenant bars, inscribed '50-'00, to the newly commissioned graduates of the Class of 2000. The program, continued by the Class of 1951 in 2001, has become known at the Alumni Association by the title "Another Link in the Chain." In addition to the graduation day presentation, there are many opportunities that can foster bonding and mutual respect between generations of USNA graduates.

4. Information

a. Several events occurring regularly throughout the academic year have been identified as possible venues for support by the class that is 50 years senior to a current USNA class. Participation in any or all of these events would be at the discretion of the individual class in consultation with the Alumni Association. The events and a brief description of each are as follows:

(1) 4/C Year

(a) Plebe Summer Induction Day. Induction Day provides many opportunities for support by Alumni; such as, providing a banner or photo board to publicize the relationship with the incoming class, greeting candidates and their families outside of Alumni Hall, attending the oath-of-office ceremony, and visiting with midshipmen (especially those unaccompanied by families) after the ceremony.

(b) Plebe Summer Reaffirmation Ceremony. At the end of Plebe Summer, the plebes take the Honor Oath and pledge allegiance to the Honor Concept of the Brigade of Midshipmen. After learning all summer about the concept and what is required and expected of midshipmen, this is their first opportunity to place themselves under the higher standard set for midshipmen. As a physical reminder of this commitment, each plebe is presented with an honor coin, specially made for their class with their class year and the presenting class year inscribed (e.g., Class of 2005, Presented by the Class of 1955). Similarly, they have the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the oath of office after having spent a summer being able to reflect and comprehend the full significance of the oath. It is possible that a member(s) of the alumni class could present the plebes with their coin and administer the honor concept oath or be a guest speaker (to be coordinated every year as circumstances allow). At a minimum, the alumni class is always invited to the ceremony and would be recognized.

(c) Sea Trials. The year of plebe training culminates in a day-long event known as "Sea Trials." The plebes' mental and physical endurance is tested during the 12-hour event where they participate in obstacle courses, physical endurance tests, and basic seamanship and problem-solving exercises designed to foster teamwork under stress. The 50-year alumni class would be invited to observe and cheer on the plebes at various times and locations throughout the day. They could be present at the culminating event in Dalghren Hall to congratulate the plebes.

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(2) 3/C Year

(a) Yard Patrol (YP) LANTPAT Pass in Review. Each new third-class midshipman, in the summer after plebe year, participates on a YP cruise. There are typically four blocks of cruises throughout the summer. At the end of each block, the YP's pass in review in a ceremony that marks the midshipmen's "right of passage" to become youngsters for having seen the Chapel Dome on Youngster Cruise. Members of the 50-year alumni class could possibly embark on the YP's to make the final approach, and/or they can be present for the Pass in Review and join in a reception afterwards.

(b) 3/C Picnic ("Youngster Luau"). At the end of 3/C year, the entire class meets on Hospital Point for an informal picnic to celebrate being halfway through the Naval Academy program. The 50-year alumni class is invited to join in the festivities.

(3) 2/C Year

(a) Commitment Dinner. At the beginning of second-class year, midshipmen who have committed themselves to further naval service participate in a formal Commitment Dinner in King Hall. Prior to the dinner all second-class midshipmen sign their class Honor Scroll, which is then presented to the class during the meal. The scroll is then prominently displayed in Smoke Hall next to the previous year's scroll. The 50-year alumni class could play a major role in this dinner, possibly providing the guest speaker and sitting among the midshipmen to join in their celebration of this momentous night.

(b) Ring Dance. There are many possible evolutions leading up to and including the Ring Dance itself where the 50-year alumni class could play a major role. This could help maintain the traditions and heritage surrounding the receiving, dipping, and wearing of class rings.

(4) 1/C Year

(a) Battalion Receptions. Every spring, the USNA Alumni Association hosts receptions for midshipmen of the senior class. Members of the class 50 years senior are traditionally invited to attend and cohost the event with the President of the USNA Alumni Association.

(b) Another Link in the Chain. The Class of 1950 began the tradition of a graduating class receiving gold ensign and 2nd lieutenant bars from the alumni class 50 years their senior.

b. There are also many opportunities for current USNA classes to support classes that are 50 years senior to them. The 50-year reunion of a USNA class, if being held during the regular academic year, provides a venue where midshipmen can talk to alumni, participate in events, and show support (such as, saluting alumni during the reunion) as the alumni class deems appropriate. Football tailgaters, class meetings, and other special events also allow for interaction among midshipmen and alumni.

5. Action and Responsibilities

a. Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy. Extends an open invitation for alumni classes 50 years senior to current USNA classes to participate in events listed above.

b. Commandant, U.S. Naval Academy

(1) Oversees the Brigade Operations Officer in coordination and communication with the Alumni Association.

(2) Educates Company Officers on the program to ensure and encourage participation of midshipmen in alumni events where appropriate.

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c. Brigade Operations Officer

(1) Ensures the USNA event Action Officers, Class Officer Representatives, and Midshipman Activities Officer are aware of the program.

(2) Ensures action officers for individual events contact the Alumni Association to coordinate events.

d. President/CEO, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association

(1) Oversees coordination between the Alumni Association and USNA activities associated with the program of support between USNA classes spanning 50 years.

(2) Educates Alumni Class Officers about the program and encourages their participation.

e. Class Support Officer, USNA Alumni Association

(1) Contacts 50-year alumni class presidents prior to events to extend an invitation for their participation.

(2) Coordinates with the USNA Midshipman Activities Officer or appropriate action officer for special event participation by alumni classes.

f. Class President, USNA Alumni Classes

(1) Coordinates with the Class Support Officer, USNA Alumni Association, to discuss events throughout the year and to make known the events in which his class wishes to participate.

(2) Extends an invitation where desired/appropriate to current USNA classes to participate in alumni class events.

6. Points of Contacta. 50-Year Alumni Class: Class Support Officer, USNA Alumni Associationb. Plebe Summer Induction Day:

(1) Officer-in-Charge, Fourth Class Regiment

(2) Plebe Summer Induction Day Coordinator

(3) Brigade Operations Office

c. Plebe Summer Reaffirmation Ceremony:

(1) Officer-in-Charge, Fourth Class Regiment

(2) Brigade Operations Office

(3) Director, Character Development Division

d. Sea Trials: Brigade Operations Office

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e. YP LANTPAT Pass-in-Review:

(1) Director, Division of Professional Development

(2) Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen

f. 3/C Picnic: Officer Representative for that class (Midshipman Activities Officer maintains the list of officer representatives.)

g. Commitment Dinner:

(1) Officer Representative for that class

(2) Brigade Operations Office

A) (3) Director, Character Development Division

h. Ring Dance:

(1) Officer Representative for that class

(2) Brigade Operations Office

i. Battalion Receptions:

(1) Class Support Officer, USNA Alumni Association

(2) Battalion Officers

(3) Individual Company Officers

j. Another Link in the Chain Program: Class Support Officer, USNA Alumni Association.



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