DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
121 BLAKE ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-1300

USNAINST 1531.48B
1/Comdt
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USNA INSTRUCTION 1531.48B

From: Superintendent

Subj: PROGRAM OF SUPPORT BETWEEN UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY (USNA) CLASSES THAT SPAN 50 YEARS, "A LINK IN THE CHAIN" (ALITC)

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

2. Cancellation. USNAINST 1531.48A

3. Background. In recent years, classes of Alumni informally established a bond with the midshipmen class 50 years their junior by attending the annual Battalion Receptions at Alumni House and then 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 overall program, continued by the Class of 1951 in 2001, has become known at USNA and the Alumni Association by the title ALITC. In addition to the graduation day presentation, there have been other opportunities added that have fostered bonding and mutual respect between generations of USNA graduates. In response to and acknowledging the importance of the ALITC Program this instruction formally established the program in 2002.

4. Information

a. The Alumni Association is responsible for the management and coordination of the ALITC Program. The Alumni Association ALITC manager will be the single point of contact for the ALITC Class chairman/president in executing the annual ALITC Program. As such the ALITC manager will be the liaison between the USNA and the ALITC Class.

b. The Alumni Association will annually provide the Commandant of Midshipmen with the rolling three-year schedule of proposed ALITC events for his review and approval. The schedule will provide the Commandant with details of format, scheduling, and scope of participation by both midshipmen of each class and members of the corresponding ALITC Class. The approved schedule, format, and scope of each event will be provided to each ALITC Class Coordinator. Once approved, any necessary reschedules/cancellations or other changes to the current annual cycle in schedule, format or scope of event, due to Yard requirements or midshipmen schedule changes, should be made with 90 days notice to the Alumni Association.

c. The annual venues normally open for ALITC support are listed below. Participation in any or all of these events would be at the discretion of the individual class in consultation with the Alumni Association. While the merits of the ALITC Program are many, the program must be managed so as to not intrude on the valuable training and liberty time of the midshipmen. Any proposed events to be added to this program, or growth in scope of existing events will be submitted first to the Alumni Association for review and recommendation before forwarding to the Commandant of Midshipmen for a final decision as to adding or declining the proposed event(s)/growth in scope. The events and a brief description follow:

(1) 4/C Year

(a) The ALITC Class has the opportunity to provide a short class history to the Commandant of Midshipmen for inclusion in their junior classes' Reef Points.

(b) ALITC Classes are encouraged to provide a class representative(s) to the many Alumni Association sponsored Parents Club and/or Chapters' pre-I Day send-off parties/receptions for midshipman candidates held across the country.

(c) Plebe Summer Induction Day. Induction Day provides the 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 Alumni Association's Plebe Parents Picnic, attending the oath-of-office ceremony, and visiting with midshipmen (especially those unaccompanied by families) after the ceremony.

(d) Plebe Summer Formal Parade. During the Plebe Summer training experience, there will be a number of formal parades scheduled. At one of the designated parades, an ALITC representative will be invited to co-review the parade with another distinguished guest. The coordination will be handled between the ALITC Class Coordinator and the Plebe Summer Officer in Charge (OIC).

(e) 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 each year by the Commandant of Midshipmen). At a minimum, the alumni class is always invited to the ceremony and would be recognized.

(f) Sea Trials. The year of plebe training culminates in a daylong 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 class could be present at the culminating event/meal to congratulate the plebes.

(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 as determined by the Commandant of Midshipmen. There are normally several 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 by having seen the Chapel Dome the end of Youngster Cruise; members of the 50-year alumni class could be present for the Pass in Review(s) and possibly be invited to join in any reception afterwards.

(b) In the spring, the midshipmen class officers accept donations of personal Naval Academy rings and Naval Academy ring miniatures in a solemn "Bonds of Gold" ceremony in Memorial Hall. The donated rings are then melted down and added to the gold that will be used to forge the midshipmen's rings, creating a life-long physical bond between the two classes.

(c) 3/C Picnic ("Youngster Luau"). At the end of *3/C* year, the entire class meets on Hospital Point or at another designated venue for an informal picnic to celebrate being halfway through the Naval Academy program. The 50-year alumni class has historically made a donation of funds to the class and occasionally has a representative(s) invited to attend.

(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 classmates sitting among the midshipmen to join in their celebration of this momentous night.

(b) Ring Dance. The Ring Dance itself is where the ALITC class could play a major role by having representatives invited to attend and help maintain the traditions and heritage surrounding the dipping and wearing of class rings.

(4) 1/C Year

(a) Battalion Receptions. In late winter or early spring, the USNA Alumni Association hosts receptions at Alumni House (Ogle Hall) for the midshipmen. Members of the class 50 years senior, traditionally co-host the event with the President of the USNA Alumni Association.

(b) Crest Presentation. During the week before Commissioning Week, the Commandant's and Academic Dean's representatives brief the midshipmen of the graduating class on the graduation procedures. At this briefing, the President of the Alumni Association issues a formal welcome and introduces the members of the ALITC class who will be presenting the Gold Bars at graduation. Finally, the midshipmen class president, the Alumni Association president and the ALITC chairman jointly unveil and present to the Naval Academy the bronze class crest that hangs in Alumni Hall, joining those of the long Chain that precedes them.

(c) Another Link in the Chain. Culminating the four years of support, mentoring and friendship the ALITC class continues the tradition begun by the Class of 1950. At graduation, selected ALITC classmates, stationed at the bottom of the stage ramps, present a set of Ensign or Second Lieutenant bars to each graduating midshipmen. These gold bars are engraved on the back with the two classes' numerals, symbolizing the graduating classes' entry into the ranks of their fellow alumni. The ALITC class also presents Gold Bars as required at the delayed graduation ceremonies in August and December.

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) Annually reviews, makes any needed changes, as recommended by the Alumni Association, and approves the three-year rolling approved slate of ALITC events. Provides a minimum of 90 days notice before changing approved events during an annual cycle.

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

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

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) Direct responsibility for oversight and coordination between the Alumni Association and USNA on all activities associated with the program of support between USNA classes spanning 50 years.

(2) Educates Alumni Class Officers about the ALITC Program, encourages their participation, and ensures the classes understand the requirement that they directly work with Alumni Association ALITC Class coordinator; direct communications between the ALITC class(es) and the Naval Academy administration and/or the midshipmen officers are inappropriate and are not authorized.

e. ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

(1) Contacts ALITC class presidents two years prior to commencement of their role as an ALITC class and briefs the President/Chair on the program.

(2) Maintains contact throughout the two years leading to and the four years of each class cycle with the ALITC class and directly coordinates all events within the Yard with the Brigade Operations Officer, other Points of Contacts as set forth below, and/or the midshipman class Officer Representative. All invitations from USNA to the ALITC class will be coordinated/extended as needed through the ALITC Coordinator/USNA Protocol Office.

f. Class President/ALITC Chair, USNA Alumni Classes

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

(2) Coordinates all event details with the ALITC Class Coordinator.

(3) Extends an invitation where desired/appropriate, with or through the Alumni Association Class ALITC Coordinator, to his/her classmates to participate in approved alumni class events.

g. USNA Protocol Office. Coordinates all USNA invitation lists with the Alumni Association protocol office and ALITC Class Coordinator

6. Points of Contact

a. 50-Year Alumni Class. ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association.

b. Midshipmen Class. The Class Officer Representative will be the primary contact. Normally midshipmen class officers will not directly communicate or coordinate with their ALITC class.

c. Plebe Summer Induction Day/Formal Parade Review

(1) Officer-in-Charge, Fourth Class Regiment
(2) Plebe Summer Induction Day Coordinator
(3) Brigade Operations Office
(4) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

d. Plebe Summer Reaffirmation Ceremony

(1) Officer-in-Charge, Fourth Class Regiment
(2) Brigade Operations Officer
(3) Director, Character Development Division
(4) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

e. Sea Trials. Brigade Operations Officer

f. YP LANTPAT Pass-in-Review

(1) Director, Division of Professional Development
(2) Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen
(3) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

g. 3/C Picnic (Luau)

(1) Officer Representative for that class (Midshipman Activities Officer maintains the list of officer representatives.)

(2) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

h. 2/C Commitment Dinner

(1) Officer Representative for that class
(2) Brigade Operations Officer
(3) Director, Character Development Division
(4) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

i. Bonds of Gold

(1) Ring and Crest Officer representative
(2) Ring Program Coordinator, Alumni Association

j. Ring Dance

(1) Officer Representative for that class
(2) Brigade Operations Officer
(3) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

k. Battalion Receptions

(1) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association
(2) Battalion Officers

(a) Individual Company Officers

l. Graduation (regular and delayed)

(1) Brigade Operations Officer
(2) Academic Dean's representative
(3) ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

m. Another Link in the Chain Program. ALITC Class Coordinator, USNA Alumni Association

/S/
J. L. FOWLER

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