



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
101 BUCHANAN ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5100

COMDTMIDNINST 11100.5A  
PE

26 DEC 2006

COMDTMIDN INSTRUCTION 11100.5A

Subj: ADMINISTRATION AND POLICIES OF CLIMBING WALL

1. Purpose. To establish procedures and responsibilities regarding the administration of the Climbing Wall and the United States Naval Academy.
2. Background. The physical mission of the Naval Academy is to develop in Midshipmen the applied knowledge of wellness, lifetime physical fitness, athletic skills, and competitive spirit, so as to endure physical hardship associated with military leadership and to instruct others in physical fitness and wellness. As part of this mission, the Naval Academy has added an artificial rock climbing wall, which will provide high quality and challenging physical education to its students. A thorough understanding by all faculty members and Midshipmen of their responsibility is necessary.
3. Cancellation. This instruction updates and replaces COMDTMIDNINST 11100.5.
4. Information. The climbing wall is the responsibility of the Head, Physical Education Department.
  - a. Authorized Use of the Climbing Wall and Required Qualification
    - (1) Use of the wall will be open to belay-qualified Midshipmen during designated liberty hours, and under no circumstances will interfere with Midshipmen study hour or any other official duties.
    - (2) Belay-qualified buttonholders will be permitted use of the wall only during established weekday lunch hour and evening climbing hours. Only belay-qualified staff, faculty, and their dependents over the age of 16 may climb during these periods. Belay tests will be given, but climbing instruction will be given separately.
    - (3) Belay qualification requires a successful demonstration of basic climbing safety. Instruction will be provided to Midshipmen be qualified Climbing Supervisors only during these designated times. Belay testing will be given at least 24 hours after the instruction, and everyone must pass the belay test before being permitted use of the climbing wall. The Climbing Wall Duty Section will maintain an official belay certification log, clearly outlining everyone who has passed the certification test, the date of their certification, and the supervisor who has qualified them. The belay certification log will be replaced each semester, requiring all Midshipmen, faculty, and staff to re-qualify each semester.
  - b. Operation of the Climbing Wall
    - (1) The Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer will establish a watch rotation during the Academic Year based upon the hours the climbing wall is available for Midshipmen and buttonholders. The watch bill will provide two qualified Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors on watch at all times the climbing wall is open, and this watch will substitute for other official duties for which the Midshipmen might otherwise be responsible.

(2) Climbing activities are permitted when the Physical Education climbing staff or two qualified Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors are available and no safety concerns exist. In order to assist the watch bill preparation during the Academic Year, the Physical Education Department will submit a monthly schedule of events to the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer, although that list is subject to change. Outside of the Academic Year, the Physical Education Department will maintain the climbing schedule.

(3) The Physical Education Department will provide all watches and training during Plebe Summer.

(4) To ensure proper supervision and safety, no recreational climbing will be permitted unless two qualified Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors are posted. Only the Physical Education Department and Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer will qualify Midshipmen as Climbing Supervisors. In order to qualify, Midshipmen must successfully demonstrate thorough climbing knowledge, safety skills, maturity, and sound judgment. This qualification entrusts a Midshipman to provide impeccable supervisions of the climbing wall at alltimes and is not to be taken lightly.

c. Maintenance of the Climbing Wall

(1) The Public Works Department will be responsible for coordinating all significant maintenance and inspections of the climbing wall.

(2) The Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer and Staff, under the supervision of the Physical Education Department, will provide all routine climbing wall maintenance. This includes periodic removal of excess chalk build-up, inspection of climbing ropes and harnesses, handhold changing, and route redesign.

(3) The Climbing Wall Officer will request and receive supplies for recurring needs, such as hold-cleaning solution, brushes, plastic storage bins, bolts, and new holds from the Physical Education Department via the Climbing Wall Director.

(4) The Physical Education Department will include maintenance funding in its annual budget request.

d. Security of Climbing Wall

(1) Physical Education building security, climbing staff, and Halsey Field House First Lieutenant will supervise all access to the climbing wall, including controlling keys to the security barrier, safety ladder, and access door. The Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer will maintain a separate key to provide access to the gear locker and climbing wall for the Climbing Wall Watch Sections.

(2) No one is permitted on the climbing wall outside of authorized climbing hours unless previously scheduled with the Climbing Wall Director and Physical Education Scheduling Officer.

e. Equipment required for Climbing Wall

(1) The Physical Education Department will provide all equipment for Physical Education Classes, including Plebe Summer.

(2) The Physical Education Department will provide climbing equipment for recreational Midshipmen climbing and Saturday morning training.

(3) Climbing Equipment that is designated for Physical Education Classes will be maintained in a separate gear locker at the Rock Wall, and is not to be used outside of the Physical Education Classes.

(4) The Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer and Staff will maintain and account for the climbing equipment that is designated to be used for Saturday morning training and recreational Midshipmen climbing during climbing wall hours as per section C.

(5) It is imperative that both the Physical Education Department and the Midshipmen Climbing Wall Staff ensure equipment safety, maintain strict accountability of equipment, and extend the life of the equipment through proper maintenance.

(6) The Physical Education Department will include funding for gear and gear replacement in its annual budget request.

f. Uniform for Climbing. Midshipmen will wear Physical Education gear (blue rim and USNA shorts) for climbing elective classes. Uniform for all other training will be approved by the Climbing Wall Supervisor. Climbing Wall Supervisors will wear T-Shirts identifying them as such.

5. Action

a. Commandant of Midshipmen. Designate Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer each year and oversee Midshipmen Climbing Wall Supervisors as designated in Midshipmen watch organization.

b. Head, Physical Education Department

(1) Assume responsibility for overall coordination of Climbing Wall operations, gear management, maintenance, curriculum, funding requests, and all climbing related activities.

(2) Ensure Physical Education staff is properly trained to provide climbing training to Midshipmen and Buttonholders.

(3) Oversee Climbing Wall Committee.

(4) Provide routine maintenance equipment and supplies to the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer.

c. Public Works Officer. Coordinate and provide all required significant maintenance and inspections of the climbing wall.

d. Climbing Wall Committee

(1) Review climbing wall curriculum and operating policies semi-annually and make recommendations to Head, Physical Education Department for review.

(2) Provide training and testing for all Midshipmen Climbing Wall Supervisors.

(3) Conduct annual inventory of all Physical Education climbing Equipment, replacing out-dated or unserviceable gear immediately.

(4) Inspect all climbing ropes and equipment weekly. Maintain rope log to track use and assist with rope retirement.

(5) Document actions of the Climbing Wall Committee.

e. Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer

(1) Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer will organize, train, and qualify Midshipmen Rock Wall Supervisor sections.

(2) Establish a watch schedule for climbing hours, ensuring that two Midshipmen Rock Wall Supervisors are present during these periods.

(3) Maintain cleanliness of the wall, periodically change out climbing routes, and maintain and account for all Midshipmen used climbing equipment.

(4) Submit requests for maintenance equipment and supplies to the Physical Education Department. Properly store equipment behind the climbing wall.

(5) Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer will select a well qualified First Class Midshipman for the position of Climbing Wall Executive Officer, and a well qualified Second Class Midshipman for the position of Midshipman Climbing Wall First Sergeant.

f. Midshipman Climbing Wall Executive Officer

(1) Assist the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer with the duties of climbing route rotation, maintaining climbing wall cleanliness, and climbing equipment maintenance.

(2) Will train and certify Midshipmen Climbing Wall Supervisors in conjunction with the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer.

(3) To act with the authority of the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer concerning rock wall maintenance and organization when necessary.

g. Midshipman Climbing Wall First Sergeant

(1) Will undergo training and preparation to assume the position of Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer for his or her upcoming first class year.

(2) Assist the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer with the duties of climbing route rotation, maintaining climbing wall cleanliness, and climbing equipment maintenance.

h. Midshipmen and Buttonholders

(1) Complete belay instruction and pass belay test prior to using climbing wall. Belay certification must be confirmed in the Belay Certification Log by a Climbing Wall Supervisor prior to climbing.

(2) Obtain required equipment prior to climbing per paragraph 3e above.

  
BRUCE E. GROOMS

Distribution:  
C-1 (Electronically)