

USNA Faculty, Coaches, and Staff
Midshipmen Duty and Watch Standing Familiarization Guide

In Fall 2005, “duty” and watch standing responsibilities for Midshipmen changed significantly. The following discussion is intended to familiarize you with the program currently in place to answer your questions, as well as enable you to support the Superintendent’s goals in these areas in the event Midshipmen or visitors ask you about it.

1) **Duty:** The underlying goal is to teach midshipmen about “duty” as we know it in the Fleet, and instill in them a sense of responsibility for things happening on the Yard and in Bancroft Hall. Everyone in the Brigade is in a Duty Section – including the Brigade Commander. The 1/C midshipmen stand a 6 section rotation, 2/C a 5 section, 3/C a 4 section, and 4/C a 3 section. It is equitably rotated to ensure fairness across the sections, especially with respect to weekend and holiday duty. A duty day is 24 hours during the week, 0600-0600, and on weekends runs from 0600 Friday to 0600 Monday. Of-age Midshipmen may not drink alcoholic beverages within 12 hours of assuming duty or while in a duty status. The general purpose of the Duty Section is to provide support to the Academy, serving as a “ready response” team. More specifically, the Duty Section maintains good order and discipline in the Hall, ensures cleanliness of Midshipmen-responsible areas, and provides watch standers for both regular watches and special watches such as ushers, escorts, lifeguards, climbing wall supervisors and Crypt watch standers. While on duty, midshipmen are strongly encouraged to support the Brigade in every way possible, including attending sporting and cultural events on the Yard.

2) **Watch Standing:** One function of the duty section is to provide watch standers. Of note, only four types of watch standers are allowed to miss class (Midshipman Officer of the Watch (MOOW), Regimental MOOW, Duty Company MOOW, and Crypt Watch). All other watches during the class day should be covered by an “Academic Watch,” so no one else should miss class due to watch. They may be tardy due to possible delays in turning over their watch station to another midshipman, but they should not miss class. Additionally, midshipmen can provide input in advance to their Adjutants regarding conflicts ensure they do not miss exams and or/field trips. There are several categories of watch standers:

a) **Bancroft Hall:** Within the Hall there is a command structure that links the watch standers for each company to their Battalion, and on to the Regiment and Brigade as a whole. The Main Office Watch serves as a central control point for all operations within the Hall. Midshipmen also execute colors in Tecumseh Court, the Superintendent’s Admin Building, and Halsey Field House (Sunday only). All of these watches ensure the security of the Hall, maintain good order and discipline in the Hall/Dahlgren/Academic Buildings, ensure cleanliness in Company and common areas, enforce a quiet study environment, and conduct taps. Most of these watch standers are able to study for brief periods while not actually performing a duty of their watch.

b) **Community Watches:** Midshipmen stand watch at Gates 1 and 3 and conduct Shore Patrol in Downtown Annapolis and the Annapolis Mall. The primary purpose of the Gate Watch is to ensure Midshipmen are complying with Midshipmen regulations and Class Rates. The primary purposes of Shore Patrol are to ensure Midshipmen are complying with Midshipmen regulations, ensure Midshipmen are properly representing the Academy in public, and foster a good relationship with the residents and visitors of Annapolis. This watch in particular is a “preventative” watch, as the Midshipmen on this watch strive to stop trouble before it starts.

c) **On the Yard Watches:** Midshipmen contribute to the mission of the Naval Academy by standing watches that support visitors, staff, and other midshipmen. For example, they provide watches at the Crypt, serve as Lifeguards and Climbing Wall supervisors, at MacDonough gym to extend the hours midshipmen can work out, serve in the execution of services at the Chapel and Levy Center, and also serve as on-call SAVI guides.

d) **Watch Credit:** Watch “credit” is given to Midshipmen who support the Naval Academy in other ways. Although every midshipman stands duty, some will be exempted from watch on a given duty day as a result of participating in other events on that day. Varsity athletes and members of Brigade Support Activities are given “watch credit” for the time spent on days when they compete or perform. Practice does NOT provide a watch exemption.

This short discussion summarizes the key aspects of Duty and Watch standing for the Brigade. For more information please contact CDR Lisa Franchetti (franchet@usna.edu) or LT Shawn William (william@usna.edu). These policies are contained in COMDTMIDNINSTS 1601.13A and 1601.10E.