



DIRATHINST 11100.5A

JAN 3 1 2014

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS INSTRUCTION 11100.5A

Subj: ADMINISTRATION AND POLICIES OF CLIMBING WALL

Encl: (1) Climbing Wall Belay Certification Requirements
(2) Climbing Wall Watch Certification Requirements
(3) CLIMBING Wall Watch Standard Operating Procedures

Ref: (a) COMTMIDNINST 1601.10J Bancroft Hall Watch Instruction

1. Purpose. To establish procedures and responsibilities regarding the administration of the Climbing Wall at the United States Naval Academy.

2. Cancellation. DIRATHINST 11100.5.

3. 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.

4. General Policies.

a. Authorized Use of the Climbing Wall and Required Qualification:

(1) **The climbing Wall** will be open to belay-qualified Midshipmen and PE button holders **during** the

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following hours, except during periods of military drill, holidays (as promulgated by the PE Department), and academic final exam periods:

(a) Monday-Friday: 1600-1800

(b) Saturday: 0800-1200

(2) Belay-qualified button holders 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 and instruction will be administered to button holders **upon request**.

(3) Belay qualification requires a successful demonstration of basic climbing safety. Instruction will be provided to Midshipmen by qualified Climbing Supervisors only during these designated times. Belay testing will be given at least 24 hours after the instruction, and climbers must pass the belay test before being permitted belay an individual on the climbing wall (testing criteria outlined in enclosure (1)). 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 kept by the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer and passed down to the watch standers each semester.

(4) At a minimum, all climbers must possess a climbing harness, belay device, and locking carabineer while climbing. All equipment is subject to inspection by the Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors to ensure safety.

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 Button holders. 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 (PE) climbing staff or two qualified

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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 PE Department will maintain the climbing schedule.

(3) The PE 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 all times 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 PE 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 Midshipman 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 PE Department via the Climbing Wall Director.

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

d. Security of Climbing Wall:

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(1) The climbing staff and the 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. Requests will only be fielded if a lesson plan and ORM documents are submitted with request.

e. Equipment required for Climbing Wall:

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

(2) The PE Department will provide climbing equipment for recreational Midshipmen climbing.

(3) Climbing Equipment that is designated for PE 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 recreational Midshipmen climbing during climbing wall hours as per section. The PE Department will provide harnesses, locking carabineers, and ATC (belay devices), for recreational climbing hours. An accountability log will be kept by climbing supervisors, to insure the equipment is accounted for on a daily basis.

(5) It is imperative that both the PE Department, Staff 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 PE Department will include funding for gear and gear replacement in its annual budget request.

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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 Director.

5. Responsibilities.

a. Head, PE Department shall:

(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 Button holders.

(3) Oversee Climbing Wall Committee.

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

b. The Climbing Wall Committee shall:

(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. Enclosure (2)

(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.

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

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d. The Rock Climbing Club shall designate a Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer each year to oversee Midshipmen Climbing Wall Supervisors as designated in midshipmen watch organization. As a Commandant approved watch, Climbing Wall Watch will replace CMOD.

e. The Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer shall:

(1) 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.

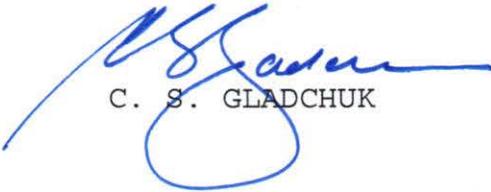
(3) Maintain cleanliness of the wall, periodically change out climbing routes, and maintain and account for all Midshipmen used climbing equipment.

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

h. Midshipmen and Button holders shall:

(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.


C. S. GLADCHUK

Distribution:
Non-Mids (Electronically)

Climbing Wall Belay Certification Requirement

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		Climber/Supervisor/Date											
Equipment Familiarization	Harness												
	ATC												
	Locking Carabiner												
	Retraced Figure 8												
Belay Technique	Climbing Commands												
	Belay Technique												
	Fall Catching												
	Lowering												
	Belaying Roof Climbing												
	Pendulum Danger												
	Boulder Spotting												

Climbing Wall Watch Certification Requirements

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		Name					
Equipment Familiarization	Harness						
	ATC/Figure 8						
	Shoes						
	Rope						
	Locking Carabiners						
	Quickdraws						
	Hold Wrench						
	Watchstander Responsibilities	Authority and Responsibility for safety					
Opening/closing wall							
Checking climbers in							
Checking out and maintaining accountability of equipment							
Rope inspections							
Equipment inspections							
Loose holds							
Logbook Familiarization							
Watchstander Binder Familiarization							
Records Keeping							
Emergency Actions							
Belay Technique		Retraced Figure 8 w/ backup knot					
	Climbing Commands						
	Belay Technique						
	Fall Catching						
	Lowering						
	Belaying Roof Climbing						
	Pendulum Danger						
	Bouldering Spotting						
Safety	Be able to spot an incorrectly worn harness						
	Be able to spot incorrectly tied figure 8						
	Be able to spot incorrect belay technique						
	Conduct a spot check						
	Belay Instruction						

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Climbing Wall Watch Standard Operating Procedures

1. Watch standers are not permitted to climb while on duty.
2. Watch standers will inspect the ropes and equipment before opening the wall and after closing the wall and log the inspection results in the climbing wall log book.
3. Watch standers will check in climbers and verify they have proper belay certification.
4. Watch standers will log significant events and material discrepancies noted.
5. Watch standers are responsible for the order and cleanliness of the wall.
6. Watch standers will not allow lead or aid climbing without the expressed permission of the head, physical education department.
7. Watch standers will ensure those bouldering will not climb higher than six feet unroped as measured from the floor to the climber's feet.
8. Watch standers will spot check 3 belayers while on watch and log the results of the spot check.
9. Watch standers will log safety violators, revoke their certification, and expel them from the wall.
10. The watch bill will be posted, at least two weeks in advance, for the following month.