From: Commandant of Midshipmen

Subj: YARD PATROL (YP) CRAFT COLOR COMPANY COMPETITION

Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNINST 3590.2E
     (b) DIVPRODEVINST 3120.2C

1. Purpose. To provide guidelines concerning the planning and execution of the Yard Patrol Craft (YP) Competitions to be undertaken as part of the Color Company Competition per reference (a).

2. Cancellation. COMDTMIDNINST 3590.1E

3. Introduction. The United States Naval Academy’s fleet of YPs are used to provide Midshipmen with hands-on training in seamanship, navigation, and shiphandling. The underway training on board the YPs is a key ingredient to qualifying Officer of the Deck and ultimately Command at Sea. The YP Color Company Competition gives Midshipmen an opportunity to demonstrate their navigational and shiphandling acumen while rewarding the top performing companies with points towards the annual Color Company Competition.

4. Aim of the Event. To evaluate the ability of a team of Midshipmen to get a YP underway, safely navigate along a charted course using visual navigation aids, perform a simulated anchorage, execute a man overboard drill, and moor alongside the seawall. Additionally, Midshipmen may be tested on maneuvering YPs into formation, solving and executing multiple maneuvering boards, and basic Division Tactics. During the evolution, the team of Midshipmen will adhere to the Rules of the Road and conduct proper radiotelephone communication procedures. Overall team smartness and professionalism will also be assessed throughout the course of the event.

5. General. The YP Color Company Competition will be held during both the fall and spring semesters. Both competitions will comprise of a team oral/written test, underway and/or classroom training sessions, semi-final competition, and the finals competition. Prior to each competition, the Division of Professional Development (PRODEV) will promulgate specific instructions and guidelines via a PRODEV notice for both the fall and spring semesters.

6. Equipment and Manning

   a. Each team of Midshipmen is required to bring a complete navigational kit and a prepared Annapolis Harbor chart (12283) to every underway session. The chart must be prepared per reference (b).

   b. A qualified Officer in Charge (OIC) shall be on board during all underway sessions to maximize training and on-the-water safety.
c. Only an officer that is OIC qualified can act as a judge when evaluating the Midshipmen teams during the underway competitions.

7. Rules of the Event

a. The OICs and/or Craftmasters shall not interfere with the Midshipmen teams' performance unless the safety of the vessel is in doubt.

b. Navigation is to be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules 6672.2D.

c. The six knot speed limit northwest of buoy eight is to be strictly enforced.

8. Action. The following actions shall be executed to successfully implement the provisions of this instruction:

a. The Commandant's Operations Officer shall ensure the inclusion of the YP Color Company Competition into the overall Color Company Competition.

b. The Director, PRODEV shall promulgate a PRODEV notice that will detail the training and competition schedule for each YP Color Company Competition.

c. The Chairman, Department of Seamanship and Navigation (SEANAV) shall:
   (1) Administer the execution of all aspects of the competition.
   (2) Schedule YPs to meet training and competition commitments.
   (3) Report competition results to the Commandant's Operations Office.

d. The SEANAV Operations Officer shall schedule dates for testing, underway training, semi-final competition, and the final competition.

9. Review Responsibility. PRODEV is responsible for the annual review of this instruction.

W. D. BYRNE, JR.