



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

COMDTMIDNINST 1531.3B
OIC, PLEBE SUMMER
19 May 2026

COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN INSTRUCTION 1531.3B

From: Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: PLEBE SUMMER REQUIREMENTS

Ref: (a) CNO "Charge of Command" Guidance
(b) CNO NAVPLAN
(c) Commandant of USMC's Planning Guidance
(d) Officer Professional Core Competencies Manual
(e) Commandant of Midshipmen Training Guidance
(f) COMDTMIDNINST 3120.1X
(g) USNAINST 1530.1H
(h) OPNAVINST 3500.39D
(i) USNAINST 6150.1

Encl: (1) Sample Letter of Instruction / Memorandum of Understanding

1. Purpose. To establish the criteria and requirements surrounding the planning, execution, and completion of Plebe Summer as an indoctrination of incoming candidates to the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) for further service as naval officers.
2. Cancellation. COMDTMIDNINST 1531.3A.
3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to all midshipmen candidates at the USNA, as well as all midshipmen comprising the Brigade of Midshipmen, USNA faculty, and staff.
4. Background. The mission of the USNA is to develop midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to graduate leaders who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government. This transformation of a civilian into a military leader capable of sound moral decision making in a dynamic, complex environment such as combat where mission success is critical and life and death situations are expected, commences at Plebe Summer. In fact, the success of the subsequent rigorous 47-month long training program is directly based upon the lessons learned during Plebe Summer, from teamwork and camaraderie to character and grit. Plebe Summer introduces the ideals of honor, courage, and commitment to instill a mindset of developing midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically through the issuance of tasks, challenges, and requirements that lay the foundations for success. It is through this comprehensive training regime incorporating lecture-based lessons, skills-based practical

application, character development vignettes modeled by daily leadership interaction, and a pressurized and physically demanding environment that we lay their foundation for success in the Brigade. Plebe Summer is not simply a milestone developmental event; it is a method by which Plebes are evaluated for fitness to serve as a midshipmen and future naval officer and the subsequent delivery of those found to meet the standards into the Brigade of Midshipmen, establishing the conditions for a successful academic year per reference (g).

5. Intent. Plebe Summer is a six-week long indoctrination period which serves as the cornerstone of USNA's 47-month professional development curriculum. Requirements and completion criteria are aligned with the Professional Core Competencies (PCC) outlined in reference (d), the Commandant of Midshipmen's training guidance per reference (e), and Operational Procedures in reference (f). The Plebe Summer Officer in Charge (OIC), staff, and midshipmen detailers shall develop the training schedule and formulate criteria for evaluation based off these documents. At the conclusion of summer training, each Plebe class shall:

- a. Be indoctrinated in the traditions of the Naval Service and the USNA;
- b. Understand basic military skills and the meaning behind them;
- c. Appreciate the high standards and obligations inherent in service as a midshipman and naval officer;
- d. Be dedicated to excellence in a competitive atmosphere that fosters leadership, teamwork, character, and a passion for winning;
- e. Appreciate the importance of mental, moral, and physical toughness in all aspects of duty and service; and
- f. Be prepared to execute the rigorous academic year routine.

6. Professional Evolutions. These evolutions ensure Plebes are ready to perform at a basic level within the Brigade. Plebes shall know the standards of moral behavior and establish the basic knowledge of military structure, protocol, and routine. Specifically, they shall:

a. Attend seven out of nine Honor and Character Development classroom sessions lasting forty-five minutes each per reference (d) PCC Manual I. F. G. II. A. C. D.

b. Achieve a passing score on the Rates Test per reference (d) PCC Manual I.G.1-4. Elements of the test shall include, at a minimum:

(1) Command Relationships and Organization for both operational and administrative environments.

(2) Navy and Marine Corps officer and enlisted rank / paygrade structures and insignia.

(3) Officer ranks in the Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

(4) Relevant Navy and Marine Corps unrestricted and restricted line communities and applicable warfare insignia.

c. Complete the course of fire for both pistol and rifle on the Weapons Range per reference (d) PCC Manual V.I. Weapons qualification is not required.

d. Attend two of the following three sessions of Damage Control Training: One two-hour brief in Alumni Hall on basics of damage control; one 2.5-hour evolution focused on firefighting; or one 2.5-hour evolution on flooding per reference (d) PCC Manual VI.C. 1-4.

e. Attend a one-hour brief on the basics of sailing and techniques. Additionally, attend two of the four hands-on sessions lasting two hours and 45 minutes. If a Plebe does not attend the brief for sailing, the brief requirement may be waived if the Plebe attends two of the four hands-on sessions per reference (d) PCC Manual VI.A.

f. Attend one of the following one-hour evolutions focused on origins and current usage of naval customs and traditions: USN Heritage Brief, USMC Heritage Brief, a tour of the USNA Museum, and a visit to the U.S. Naval Institute per reference (d) PCC Manual I.F.1-5.

g. Attend three of the four available character development speaker briefs and/or an Honor Coin ceremony with their Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) class in order to understand the Oath of Office to Navy and Marine Corps' core values, professional, moral, and ethical responsibilities of the Naval Officer per reference (d) PCC Manual II.A.1-4 and II.C.1-2.

h. Complete two 45-minute, Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL) led training sessions on effective leadership principles. These sessions will include factors that influence an officer's ability to effectively lead in an organization in a myriad of circumstances, to include a dynamic, pressurized environment per reference (d) PCC Manual II.A.1-3, II.C.1-2 and II.D. 1-3 and 6-10.

i. Attend a two-hour Seamanship and Navigation (SEANAV) training in Luce Hall simulators and a Yard Patrol Craft (YP) evolution (static or underway). Topics will include terms, nomenclature, use of shipboard deck equipment and fittings, shipboard safety, and preparedness, specifically the importance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and procedural compliance per reference (d) PCC Manual VI.A. and B.

NOTE: While Section 4.i is introduced during Plebe Summer, if a Plebe fails to attend the training, it will not be included on the Letter of Instruction (LOI) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as it will be mitigated and completed during the academic year in the NS101 Fundamentals of Seamanship course of instruction.

7. Physical Evolutions. These evolutions ensure Plebes meet the physical expectations of a midshipman and are prepared to sustain physical excellence during Plebe Year and throughout their academic years at the USNA. Specifically, they shall:

a. Pass the Physical Readiness Test (PRT). Reference (d) PCC Manual IV. E. 1. 2.

b. Attempt each obstacle on the Obstacle Course.

c. Complete the Endurance Course.

8. Other Training Topics. The following elements will be executed as and when required to successfully implement the provisions of this instruction.

a. Uniform Regulations. In addition to informal daily room and uniform inspections, each Plebe will pass three formal inspections during Plebe Summer (initial, mid-cycle and final inspections). At each inspection, the Plebe's room, uniform, and knowledge will be inspected per reference (d) PCC Manual I.B.1-2.

b. Marching, Formations, and Basic Drill Maneuvers. Each Plebe typically attends three formations a day. The regiment participates in six practice parades, four formal parades, and platoon-level initial and final drill competitions. Additional gray space is allocated for practice drill, ranging from the platoon to regiment level. At least 20 hours of regiment-wide drill instruction is expected over the summer per reference (d) PCC Manual I.C.1.

c. Watchstanding. Each Plebe will be qualified as a Company Mate of the Deck (CMOD) and stand a minimum of one, continuous hour-long watch during the summer per reference (d) PCC Manual I.E.

d. Naval Standards for Physical Readiness, Nutrition, and Weight Control. Plebes will attend the Physical Education Program (PEP) five days a week in addition to a 30-minute brief on nutrition. Plebes also attend sports period for approximately five days a week beginning the second week of Plebe Summer (typically Training Day (TD)-11) per reference (d) PCC Manual IV.E.1-2.

9. Administrative Tasking. In addition to the training topics discussed above, the midshipmen detailers will ensure all Plebes conduct the following tasks:

a. Complete uniform issue (5th Wing).

b. Complete textbook/laptop issue (MidStore).

c. Complete ID Card issue.

d. Turn in/create medical/dental records (6th Wing).

e. Conduct security clearances (Command Security – Larson Hall).

f. Take initial photos for Midshipmen Information System (Public Affairs Office - Larson Hall).

g. Attend a 45-minute safety training brief held by the USNA safety officer per reference (h).

h. Complete the Chemistry and English placement exams.

i. Complete any Blackboard placement exams (e.g. Calculus) not completed prior to arriving on Induction Day.

- j. Complete any required additional placement exams (e.g. Physics, Chemistry 2).
- k. Register for fall semester classes (MIDS).
- l. Complete 90-minute Department of Defense required Sexual Assault and Prevention Response training and indoctrination survey.
- m. Complete Information Assurance training upon receipt of computer/laptop for access to the USNA network.

10. End State and Transition to the Brigade of Midshipmen. Following Plebe Summer, Plebes are expected to enter their Companies and seamlessly transition from their indoctrination period during Plebe Summer and into an academic setting. Upon the conclusion of Plebe Summer, the Training Department will annotate any requirements in this instruction that remain unfulfilled per individual Plebe via an LOI and provide it to the academic year Company Officer delinquent requirements. The academic year Company Officer, in coordination with the Training Department, will take responsibility for managing the completion of any delinquent requirements within this instruction, with a completion date at least 30 days prior to the following Spring Break. Specifically, the Rates Test, Weapons Range, and Damage Control Trainer will be scheduled for completion by the 4/C Training Officer throughout the academic year. All other requirements will be remediated and scheduled for completion by the Company Officer. For more information about completion requirements, see paragraphs 13 and 14.

11. Completion Failure. If a Plebe is unable to complete subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this paragraph, the Plebe may be deemed “Plebe Summer Incomplete” by the Commandant of Midshipman, and the Plebe will not be permitted to transition to the Academic Year. The standard course of action is that the Plebe would voluntarily resign, return to their home of record, and may re-apply for admission via the Academic Board. If the Plebe does not voluntarily resign, the Plebe Summer OIC is to route a memorandum to the Superintendent, via the Commandant, requesting the Plebe be separated for demonstrating a lack of qualification for service based on deficient conduct. Alternatively, if appropriate, the Aptitude process discussed in reference (f) may be used to address deficiencies and potential separation. A Plebe will automatically be deemed “Plebe Summer Incomplete” if one or more of the below criteria occurs:

a. If a Plebe misses 21 full training days (i.e. SIQ or in Tango Company) or does not complete 40% of Plebe Summer evolutions, as determined by the Plebe Summer OIC, per reference (f), or

(1) If a Plebe reaches 10 missed training days or 15% missed evolutions, they will receive counseling from the CO.

(2) If a Plebe reaches 15 missed training days or 30% missed evolutions, they will receive counseling from the Plebe Summer AOIC.

(3) If a Plebe reaches 21 missed training days or 40% missed evolutions, they will be briefed by the OIC that they may be forwarded recommending separation.

- b. If a Plebe, fails any required portion of this instruction. This includes, but is not limited to, professional and physical evolutions outlined in paragraphs (5) and (6) of this instruction, or
- c. If a Plebe meets the criteria for lack of qualification for service based on deficient conduct set forth in paragraph (12).

12. Lack of Qualification for Service Based on Deficient Conduct

a. Demonstrated lack of qualification based on deficient conduct is based on factors such as, but not limited to, the following:

(1) There is a reasonable probability the midshipman will not meet the minimum standards prescribed for successful completion of Plebe Summer because of lack of aptitude, ability, motivation, or self-discipline.

(2) The midshipman has demonstrated character or behavior characteristics incompatible with satisfactory continued service as a midshipman or as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

(3) The midshipman is shown to have unsatisfactory performance and conduct as evidenced by incapability, lack of reasonable effort, or failure to adapt socially or emotionally to the naval environment.

b. Plebe Summer midshipmen are in an entry-level status from Induction Day through the completion of their first academic semester. If found to be deficient in conduct during this time, they may be separated from the USNA and receive an entry-level discharge.

c. Prior to initiating separation, the Plebe Summer staff must:

(1) Ensure that the midshipman receives adequate counseling and rehabilitation efforts before initiating separation for lack of qualification for service. At least one formal counseling session, in writing, is required. During this counseling session, the midshipman must be notified of his/her deficiencies and informed of the potential adverse effects of failing to correct such deficiencies. One week is considered a reasonable time to correct deficiencies during Plebe summer.

(2) After one week, if deficiencies are not correct, initiate separation action.

(3) Provide the midshipman with an opportunity to see legal counsel (at least 3 duty days) and submit matters on his or her own behalf (at least 3 duty days).

(4) Forward the request for separation, with a recommendation to the Superintendent, via the Plebe Summer OIC, and the Commandant. Plebes are authorized to obtain copies of all documents that will be forwarded to the Superintendent which support the basis for the proposed entry level separation.

13. Plebes With Outstanding Training Requirements After Plebe Summer. If Plebe Summer concludes and a Plebe has not completed all summer training requirements, but is not designated Plebe Summer Incomplete, the following actions will occur:

a. The Plebe will be issued a LOI delineating a clear path to completing outstanding training requirements. In most cases, Plebes are able to complete requirements during the normal course of the Academic Year by accomplishing missed evolutions during Saturday Morning Training, Company training periods, or individually arranged sessions;

b. Follow the MOU for varsity athletes who depart Plebe Summer prior to TD-49. Plebe varsity athletes who begin training camp prior to TD-49 and no longer participate in the Plebe Summer Master Training Schedule must still comply with the Certification Standard. This may require make-up sessions to be coordinated by their academic year Company Officer. The Commandant of Midshipmen will issue a LOI to a Plebe varsity athlete who does not meet the Completion Standard simply because of scheduling conflicts to ensure they understand their outstanding requirements.

c. Depending on the volume of outstanding training requirements, along with documented concerns about a lack of qualification to join the Brigade, the Plebe may be recommended for entry level separation, using the process set forth in paragraph 12.

d. The Plebe may submit a Voluntary Resignation and simply re-apply for admission via the Spring AcBoard.

14. Failure to Comply with LOI. These Plebe Summer Completion Requirements will be completed at least 30 following Spring Break. Plebes who do not complete Plebe Summer Completion Requirements may be required to complete remediation during Spring Break. If a Plebe does not satisfy their LOI by 20 April, Company Officers will automatically assign them a "D" in Aptitude and forward to the Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen for record review with a possible recommendation of separation from the USNA. If a plebe is retained or not forwarded for separation, but still not complete with Plebe Summer requirements, they will remain on 4/C privileges until all items are complete.

15. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes (SSIC) 1000 through 13000 series per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/ Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at [https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/ AllItems.aspx](https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx).

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records manager or the DON/ AA DRMD program office.

16. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17 A, Plebe Summer Officer in Charge will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNA V 5215/40 Review of instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or canceled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need or cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215/16.



A. M. JACKSON
Acting

Releasability and distribution: This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically via the USNA Commandant Web Page,
<https://www.usna.edu/Commandant/comdtinst.php>

SAMPLE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION / MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DD Mmm YY

From: Plebe Summer Officer in Charge, U.S. Naval Academy
To: MIDN First M. Last, USN

Subj: Plebe SUMMER LETTER OF INSTRUCTION / MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING

Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNINST 1531.3A

1. Per reference (a), you have not completed all mandatory Plebe Summer certifying event(s), as a result of failure to fulfill the requirements you have been placed in a delinquent status.
2. You are directed to complete all mandatory certifying events per reference (a), specifically you will complete:
 - a. Pass the Physical Readiness Test.
 - b. Obstacle Course (Completion required).
3. Failure to complete the requirements by 20 April XXXX will result in the Company Officer automatically forwarding you to an aptitude board with a recommendation of separation. In an extreme case, you may be directed to complete remediation over Spring Break.
4. You will be removed from a delinquent status upon completion of all assigned tasks.

W. T. DOOR
CAPT, USN

Acknowledged: Signature/Date

Witnessed: Signature/Date

Copy to:
Performance Jacket

Enclosure (1)