

The Math News

Volume 2, number 1 August 30, 2002

Manufacturing problems involving folding often rely on optimization theory. Optimization problems are also important to the Navy. The mathematics department offers a course on linear models and optimization, **SA401**. This course also helps fulfill the requirements of the 0042E subspecialty code (see below).

Operations Analysis Sub-Specialty Code (0042E)

The Navy is starting a subspecialty coding system for officers based on their undergraduate education. The program was initiated by N81, and the first code is a 0042E code to support the Navy's need for officer analysts. The code will identify junior officers who have analytical skills and training that qualify them to fill designated shore billets that involve analytical studies important to the future of the U.S. Navy. Officers with an E code will be given special consideration for assignment to Naval Postgraduate (NPG) School in Monterey to earn a masters degree. Midshipmen with Mathematics (SMA) or Quantitative Economics (SQE) majors can readily satisfy the requirements for this code. See <http://www.usna.edu/MathDept/website/Mids/OA0042ECode/OASubSpecialty.htm> for course requirements.

Welcome to the Math Lab!

Midshipmen are invited to visit the THEODORE J. BENAC MATH LAB, located in Chauvenet Room 103. Midshipmen are encouraged to drop by to review

topics and hone their basic mathematics skills. The Math Lab is staffed by Mathematics Department faculty during periods 1 through 6 each class day. Of course, Midshipmen should first attempt to arrange Extra Instruction (EI) with their own instructors. However, in those situations where that is not possible, Midshipmen may drop by the Math Lab during the day to receive guidance in solving mathematics problems.

Math Puzzle - Dollars and Cents

A midshipman went into the credit union to cash a check. The cashier, by mistake, gave him dollars for cents and cents for dollars. The midshipman lost a nickel on the way back to Bancroft, and on arriving at his room found that he had exactly twice the amount of the check. He had no money with him before going to the credit union. What was the amount of the check?

Home Runs and Ballparks

How hard is it to hit a home run in different ballparks? See Ivars Peterson's August 12, 2002 column on Naval Academy Professor Howard Penn's answer to this question at http://www.maa.org/mathland/mathrek_08_12_02.html Prof. Penn's work was also featured in the Los Angeles Times.

For previous issues of Math News, see <http://mathweb.mathsci.usna.edu/faculty/mathnews/>