

THE NAVAL ACADEMY

ANNAPOLIS

The City of Annapolis has been home to the Naval Academy for all but four years since the founding of the school in 1845 on the grounds of what originally was the Army's Fort Severn. The Academy moved its location to Newport, Rhode Island, from 1861-1865 during the Civil War.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

"Anchors Aweigh" was written by Lt. Charles Zimmerman, musical director of the Naval Academy, in 1906, with the lyrics provided by Alfred H. Miles '06 as a fight song for the 1907 graduating class. The song made its debut at the 1906 Army-Navy game and when the Mids won, the song became traditional at the contest.

Stand Navy down the field,
Sails set to the sky,
We'll never change our course,
So Army you steer shy.
Roll up the score, Navy,
Anchors Aweigh,
Sail Navy down the field,
And sink the Army,
sink the Army Grey

BANCROFT HALL

Named after the former Secretary of the Navy (1845-46) and founder of the Naval Academy George Bancroft, Bancroft Hall serves as the dormitory for the entire Brigade of Midshipmen. Its 33 acres of floor space and nearly five miles of hallways makes it one of the largest dorms in the world.

BRIGADE OF MIDSHIPMEN

The 4,000-member student body at the Naval Academy is called the Brigade of Midshipmen.

The Brigade is organized into ...

- 2 regiments
- 6 battalions
- 30 companies

BILL THE GOAT

The first recorded use of a goat as the mascot for Navy teams was in 1893 when an animal named El Cid (the Chief) was presented to the Brigade by officers of the USS New York. El Cid helped Navy to a 6-4 win over Army that year and a goat became the permanent mascot of the Academy in 1904.

BLUE & GOLD

Now, colleges from sea to sea
May sing of colors true;
But who has better right than we
To hoist a symbol hue?
For sailors brave in battle fair,
Since fighting days of old,
Have proved the sailor's right to wear
The Navy Blue and Gold

CLASS RANKS

First-year students at the Naval Academy are referred to as "plebes" during their initial or "Fourth Class" year in school, while sophomores at Navy, members of the "Third Class," are called "youngsters." Juniors at the school are designated as "Second Class," with seniors called "Firsties" in reference to their "First Class" year.

CO-ED

Women were first admitted to the Naval Academy during the summer of 1976. Today, women comprise roughly 15 percent of the student body.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

When a student graduates from the Naval Academy, they have the option to enter either the Navy or the Marine Corps as an officer. If they choose to join the Navy, they are commissioned as Ensigns, while those entering the Marine Corps are given the rank of Second Lieutenant.

JOHN PAUL JONES

The crypt of John Paul Jones, considered America's first naval leader and hero, is located below the Naval Academy Chapel.

The native of Scotland was born in 1747, and travelled to the colonies to assist America during the Revolutionary War. His ship never lost a battle as he reached a rank of captain in the Continental Navy.

Jones died in 1792 in Paris, France, and was buried there. His remains were returned to the United States in 1905 and he was interred at the Naval Academy eight years later.

MARINE CORPS

Those officers entering the Marine Corps have the choice of service selecting one of the following fields ...

- Aviation -- air command and control, anti-air warfare, aviation maintenance, aviation supply, pilot, naval flight officer.
- Ground -- armor*, artillery*, communications (information systems), engineering, financial management, infantry*, logistics, military police (* = not available to women)



MIDSHIPMAN

The original 17th Century meaning of the word “midshipsmen” designated those men who stood watch “amidships”, or in the middle portion of a ship. The middle “s” was later dropped to give the current form of the word.

Midshipmen were originally young boys who were apprenticed to sea captains to learn the trade.

In the early days of the Navy, midshipmen were trained aboard ship until they were commissioned as ensigns.

NAVY

Graduates of the Naval Academy entering the Navy have the following service options available to them ...

- Aviation -- flight officer, pilot
- Nuclear Propulsion -- ships, submarines*
- Restricted Line and Staff Corps -- civil engineering, cryptology, intelligence, maintenance, medicine, meteorology/oceanography, supply
- Special Operations -- explosive ordnance disposal, explosive ordnance management, mine countermeasures, operational diving and salvage,
- Navy SEALs*
- Surface Warfare -- conventional, nuclear powered
- Submarines*

(* = not available to women)

NICKNAME

The official nickname for all of Navy’s athletic teams is Midshipmen. “Mids” is an appropriate nickname, while “Middie” is inappropriate.

N-STAR

Members of varsity teams who qualify for the varsity letter receive an N-Star for their letter sweaters if they participate in a victory over Army in any sport-designated Star Game.

The varsity N and corresponding N-Star were initiated during the early 1890s.

SCHOOL COLORS

Each class at the Naval Academy produced their own set of class colors until 1892 when Navy Blue and Gold were established as the official colors for the entire Naval Academy.

SUMMER TRAINING

Summers remain a busy and challenging time of year for midshipmen. Their initial tenure at the Naval Academy begins around July 1 prior to the start of the freshman year at the school with “Plebe Summer.” Instead of taking academic classes, plebes receive military indoctrination and learn basic seamanship and sailing.

The summer following plebe year is spent aboard various ships to gain knowledge and experience of the workings of the Navy. Included in this time is a three-week cruise aboard either a 44-foot Naval Academy sailboat or a Yard Patrol craft traveling on the East Coast.

Portions of the summer before the start of a second-class year is spent visiting bases of both the Navy and the Marine Corps. That leads up to the next summer when midshipmen join an operational unit of the Navy or Marine Corps for several weeks. In addition, rising firsties also begin to accept leadership roles at either the Naval Academy for plebe summer, the Naval Academy Prep School (Newport, R.I.) or aboard a yard patrol or sailing cruise.



TECUMSEH

Tecumseh is the Native American figurehead which has been facing Bancroft Hall since 1866.

The statue originally was the figurehead of the USS Delaware and named after Tamanend, a Delaware chief. The name was later changed to Tecumseh after a Shawnee chieftain who lived from 1768-1813.

The original wooden statue was replaced after 50 years by the current bronze version.

Tecumseh is painted prior to football games and during Commissioning Week he is adorned with the shoulder boards of a Navy ensign on one side and that of a Marine Corps second lieutenant on the other.

THE YARD

“The Yard” is another name for the grounds of the Naval Academy. Originally just 10 acres, The Yard has grown to a size of 338 acres.

NAVAL ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



VICE ADM.
RODNEY P. REMPT, USN
Superintendent



CAPT.
MARGARET KLEIN, USN
Commandant of Midshipmen

Macdonough Hall



Three years and \$8.5 million went into the renovation of Macdonough Hall. The result is what most consider to be one of the most premier facilities in the country. Last year, Macdonough Hall served as the host to the ECAC/EIGL Championship.

The gymnastics loft is equipped with the most modern training devices available. Included is a 65-foot long, eight-foot deep in-ground, loose foam safety pit, as well as spotting belts for every event. The state-of-the-art equipment includes: spring floor and tumbling strip into the pit; floor pommel horse, a buck and two mushrooms; two ring rigs with one over the pit; two vaulting runways with one into the pit; five sets of parallel bars with one next to the pit for dismounts; four horizontal bars with one over the pit and two trampolines.

