

A Tour of the US Service Academies

Class 3:

US Naval Academy

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USNA

History

- Traditionally, naval officers served as midshipmen aboard naval vessels
- These could be as young as 10 or as old as 40

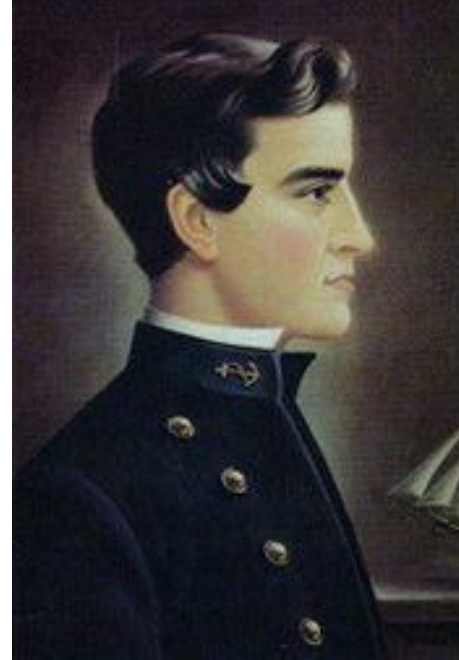


History

- West Point was founded in 1802, but no naval equivalent was considered for many years thereafter.
- The catalyst for the USNA was the Somers affair

Somers Affair

- In 1842, Philip Spencer, the son of the Secretary of War, was serving aboard the *USS Somers* as a Midshipman
- Finding out about a possible mutiny, he notified the purser



Somers Affair

- The rumor went up the chain to the ship's Captain, Alexander McKenzie
- He did not take any immediate action, but put both Spencer and the crew under surveillance
- It was found that Spencer was having secret meetings with the crew and his diary had Greek symbols
- This was probably because he was a member of a Greek fraternity at Union College before going to sea

Somers Affair

- Later, a mast failed and damaged some sails, a huge problem for a ship at sea
- A number of thefts led to floggings
- Captain McKenzie ordered his four officers and three senior midshipmen to investigate
- They concluded that Spencer and two other crew members were planning to take over the ship
- The same day the report was made, all three were hung and buried at sea

Somers Affair

- Spencer's father, the Secretary of War, obviously had power over this issue
- While a naval court martial exonerated Captain Mackenzie, the general public remained skeptical about the idea of midshipmen at sea
- Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft and Commodore Matthew Perry, in response to this, created the USNA

Somers Affair

- Spencer's cousin was the novelist Herman Melville
- Melville would later use the case as the basis for his novel *Billy Budd*

USNA – early years

- As a result of the Spencer incident, it was decided to train new naval officers centrally and not trust them to individual Captains
- Thus was born USNA

USNA – early years

- Secretary of the Navy Bancroft secured Fort Severn in Annapolis to serve as the Academy
- Not the last time the Army helped out USNA (more to come)

USNA – early years

- The original course was five years, with the first and last years at Annapolis and the middle three at sea under close supervision
- Not until 1851 that the entire four years were spent at Annapolis

Civil War years

First, a trivia question:

Why is Washington's Union
Station called that?

Civil War Years

- No, not because of the Union side in the Civil War
- When railroads first came to the US, they were not considered safe to go through cities
- So passengers would get off the train outside one side of the city, and proceed to the other side of the city and reboard another train

Civil War Years

- It was not until many years after the Civil War that tracks ran completely through a city
- To put it another way, the tracks were unified
- And ended up in a Union Station
- Such as Chicago, New Haven, DC, Pittsburgh

Civil War Years

- In April 1861, after the attack on Fort Sumter, units from the North rushed to Washington
- To get to DC from places like NY and Boston, trains had to go to Baltimore
- On April 19, 1861, soldiers of the 6th Massachusetts marched through Baltimore and were set on by rioters



MASSACHUSETTS SOLDIERS MARCHING THROUGH BALTIMORE.

Civil War Years

- As a result of its location near a city of questionable loyalty, USNA moved to Newport RI for the duration of the Civil War
- Like USMA, some grads went south, but the majority stayed loyal
- USNA moved back to Annapolis in 1865, and Civil War hero David Dixon Porter was assigned as Supe, tasked with rebuilding facilities damaged in the war

Black midshipmen

- The first black midshipman was John Conyers, who was admitted in 1872
- Under severe hazing, he resigned in 1873
- As noted, a black would not graduate from USNA until 1949

20th Century

- As with USMA, classes were shortened during WWI and WWII
- However, this was nowhere as severe in WWI as it was for USMA
- More about that later

A Tour of the USNA



Bancroft Hall

Named after the Secretary of the Navy who founded Annapolis, this barracks houses the entire Brigade of Midshipmen



Naval Academy Chapel

The high dome of the chapel is visible throughout campus



John Paul Jones tomb

Remains of John Paul Jones were brought from France to USNA in 1905 and placed in basement of the Chapel



Uriah Levy Jewish Chapel

One of the earliest Jewish officers in Naval service, he fought anti-Semitism and later bought Monticello from the Jefferson estate. The chapel was built in 2005



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Alumni Hall

Home of the men and women's basketball teams



Halsey Field House

Named after Fleet Admiral Bull Halsey, serves as the arena for Navy indoor sports teams



Mahan Hall

Named after Alfred Thayer Mahan, it housed the library but now is a lounge area (Stay tuned for USMA)



Preble Hall

Houses the USNA Museum



Rickover Hall

Houses the science and naval architecture departments



Dahlgren Hall

Dahlgren Hall houses the Drydock Restaurant, as well as support offices and a large Assembly Room



Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

Home of the Mids, who have done quite well recently



Cemetery

Cemetery

Among the famous people interred in the cemetery:

- Captain Edward Beach – famed author
- Admiral William Crowe – Chairman, JCS and Ambassador to England
- Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King – CNO during WWII
- Rear Admiral Wade McClusky – Commander of the *Enterprise* Air wing during the battle of Midway

Cemetery

Among the famous people interred in the cemetery:

- Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd – awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor while serving on the *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor
- James Stockdale – awarded Medal of Honor while a POW in Hanoi
- Husband Kimmel – Commander of the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, seen by many as a scapegoat for intelligence failures

Leadership

VADM Ted Carter
Superintendent



CAPT Robert Chadwick
Commandant



Leadership

- The Superintendent has always been a serving Naval Officer, and always male
- In 2002, COL John Allen, USMC, became the first non Navy officer to serve as commandant
- Three commandants later, CAPT Margaret Klein became the first female commandant at USNA
- Almost all of these two officers are graduates of USNA

Faculty

- Unlike USMA and USAFA, USNA does not have an almost exclusively military faculty
- Approximately 50% of the faculty are civilians with PhD, who can secure tenure as in civilian universities
- This includes the Dean, who unlike at USNA or USMA, is not a serving officer

Faculty

- The remainder are military officers, holding Masters or higher, assigned to USNA for usually three years
- A large proportion of these officers are USNA grads

Alums

Jimmy Carter



Alfred Thayer Mahan



Alums

David Robinson



H Ross Perot



Alums

John McCain



Robert Heinlein
Sci fi author



Alums

Montel Williams



Hyman Rickover



Alums

**James Lovell (not Tom
Hanks)**

Alan Shepard



Fictional Grads

Steve McGarrett
1967



Steve McGarrett
2010



Fictional Grads

Thomas Magnum



Jack Ryan (in all variations)



Traditions

Gokoku-ji Bell

- The bell is an exact replica of the one brought to the US by Commodore Matthew C. Perry after his trip to Japan in 1854.
- The original bell was donated to the Naval Academy by Commodore Perry's widow, and then returned to Okinawa in 1987.
- The bell is rung to celebrate football victories over Army.
- It is stationed in front of Bancroft Hall.



Traditions

Tecumseh Statue

- Actually a statue of Chief Tamanend, the figurehead of the *USS Delaware*
- Tamanend was a pacifist friend of William Penn, so even though it does not represent him, it was renamed Tecumseh, after a fighting chief



Traditions

Tecumseh Statue

- Known as the “God of 2.0” (a passing grade) midshipmen in academic difficulties throw pennies at the base of the statue
- It is also painted before football games and other major events such as graduation



Traditions

Herndon

Monument

The monument is a 33.5 foot obelisk in honor of a captain who went down with his ship after saving the lives of those aboard



Traditions

Herndon

Monument

At the end of plebe
(freshman) year,
the class works
together to climb
the greased pole
and replace a dixie
cup with a cover



Traditions

Herndon

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Traditions

Herndon Monument

- The midshipmen who climbs is given a set of admiral's shoulder boards
- After 2010, the climb was discontinued by the Supe for safety reasons
- By the 2011 climb, there was a new Supe who OKed the climb



Traditions

Billy the Goat

- The first Army Navy football game was held at West Point in 1890 (also a Navy win)
- According to legend, on their way from the train station to the Plain, the Navy players, in need of a mascot, spotted a goat in the front yard of a quarters



Traditions

Billy the Goat

- The original official goat, first used in 1893, was called El Cid
- In 1900, the goat was renamed Bill, and has remained so since then
- The current versions of the Goat are named Bill XXXV and XXXVI



Bill the Goat

In addition to a live Bill the Goat, a Mid dresses up as him

There is also a Bill the Goat statue on USNA grounds



Traditions

Thievery

- Before the Army Navy game, cadets and mids try to steal each other's mascots
- Of course, it is easier to steal a goat than a mule
- But both are very ornery animals!



Traditions

Thievery

In 1992, mids
made it back
to Annapolis
with mules
before being
caught



Traditions

Thievery

- The goat ended up at West Point a number of times, first in 1953 and then again in 1972, 1995, 2002, and 2007
- Most recently, in 2012, the goats were nabbed twice in two weeks



Traditions

Class Rings

- Class rings are a huge tradition as at other Service Academies
- The ring ceremony is held in May, when the second class midshipmen receive their class rings at a formal dance



Traditions

Class Rings

- The event is held in Dahlgren Hall.
- Traditionally, the Midshipman's date wears the ring around her/his neck,
- The couple dips the ring in water from all seven seas



Traditions

Army Navy game

- The Army Navy game is the highlight of the athletic year
- Among the traditions are the “Prisoner Exchange” where cadets and midshipmen who are exchange students are allowed to root for their home school.



Issues

- Integration of women/sexual assault
- Football team issues

Integration of women/sexual assault

- Women were admitted in 1976 to USNA, with the first class graduating in 1980
- In 1979, former Secretary of the Navy (and future VA Senator) James Webb, a 1968 USNA graduate, penned an article “Why Women Can’t Fight”



Integration of women/sexual assault

In this article he wrote:

There is a place for women in our military, but not in combat. And their presence at institutions dedicated to the preparation of men for combat command is poisoning that preparation. By attempting to sexually sterilize the Naval Academy environment in the name of equality, this country has sterilized the whole process of combat leadership training, and our military forces are doomed to suffer the consequences



Integration of women/sexual assault

- This became the clarion call (or excuse) to try to marginalize women at USNA
- Problems continue with sexual harassment, assault and even rape

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Integration of women/sexual assault

Case Study: Annie Kendzior

- A recruited soccer athlete, who had some mental health issues before admission, she was admitted in 2008
- In the summer of 2008, she was invited to a party by the lacrosse team. She admitted she had too much to drink, but woke up on a mattress being raped
- A second assault was reported to have taken place about a year later



Integration of women/sexual assault

Case Study: Annie Kendzior

- She began taking medication for depression, and asked to be moved off one medication when she felt it rendered her suicidal
- In 2011, after a hospitalization for depression, she reported the two rapes
- Shortly thereafter, she was processed for removal from USNA based on the conclusion she “possesses insufficient aptitude to become a commissioned officer”



Integration of women/sexual assault

Case Study: Annie Kendzior

- After her dismissal, she enrolled and later graduated from Trinity University where she was the star of the soccer team
- She filed a lawsuit, which is still pending, against USNA for its actions.



Integration of women/sexual assault

- The Navy Secretary Ray Mabus on 21 December 2012, issued a statement of shame over a recent sexual abuse study
- The superintendent, Vice Admiral Mike Miller, has enforced a new academy policy, as of January 2013, related to training, victim support, campus security, leadership presence on weekends, and a general review of alcohol policy

Integration of women/sexual assault

All service academies are now required to report annually the number of sexual assault incidents occurring on their academies

Integration of women/sexual assault

- The number of reported sexual assaults has dropped, but the percentage of female cadets/midshipmen unwanted sexual contact rose to 12 percent among women, up from 8 percent the previous year
- The report also noted that 1.7 percent of men reported unwanted sexual contact, an increase from the 1.1 percent in the previous report.

Integration of women/sexual assault

- There is still an underlying belief at the academies that warriors must be aggressive, and that putting women in the mix will inevitably result in such encounters
- Obviously runs counter to the idea of duty and honor

Football team issues

- Navy football, particularly under Head Coaches Paul Johnson (2002-2007 and current Head Coach Paul Niumatalolo (right) have been very successful
- Until Army won in 2016 (and again in 2017) last year, Navy had won 14 straight Army Navy games
- Under Niumatalolo, Navy has gone to 10 bowl games in 11 years



Football Team Issues

- There is a feeling among the cadets/midshipmen at all academies that athletes, particularly football players are untouchable
- This is augmented by the publicity, particularly in the service and flag officers, results get

Football Team Issues

- Moreover, each academy maintains a prep school
- These prep schools were originally designed for enlisted candidates who had been away from school for years
- Now used to buck up the credentials of football players who normally would not meet admission standards.

Football Team Issues

- In the case of USNA, this has led to a confluence of both issues, as there have been cases of sexual assault by football players
- While there has been some actions taken, the general consensus is that football players are above the law

Next class

We finish our tour 50 miles north of NYC, touring West Point, also known as the Trade School