

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Annapolis, Maryland

16 August 1962

CLASS POLICY

CLASS OF 1963

INTRODUCTION

The Class Policy of the Class of 1963 is a plan of action and as such it does not dictate as to the methods which may be utilized to accomplish its objectives. The objectives of the Class Policy of the Class of 1963 are outlined in three sections: Honor, Brigade Leadership, and Plebe Indoctrination. The objectives presented possess flexibility such that not only can they be applied to our lives at the Naval Academy but also to our future careers as officers.

HONOR:

"Honor, personal integrity and loyalty are fundamental characteristics essential to a successful naval officer." As quoted from the Naval Academy Honor Concept, herein lie the characteristic goals for which we, the Class of 1963, strive.

Each member of the Class of 1963 is individually responsible for the moral, mental and physical growth and development of the members of the Brigade of Midshipmen. In particular he is responsible for the growth of honor and loyalty within himself and his own fourth classman. Developing one's sense of honor and loyalty is an ever continuing process, which of itself requires the highest of goals of each man.

The ideals of honor demanded of each midshipman are set forth and embodied in the Honor Concept. The Honor Concept, as such, is not merely a series of written laws and limits, but rather an inner personal level of moral standards, whereby one has developed a sense of basically what is right and wrong, just or unjust. The Class of 1963 as an entity must continually strive to reach and maintain this level of honor and integrity. It must work as a whole and individually to instill these ideals in its own members and in every member of the Brigade.

The Honor Concept is an idealistic code of moral ethics. It cannot be a success unless supported and believed in by every member of the Brigade. It is and will be the policy of our class to incessantly endeavor to make every midshipman cognizant of its full meaning and aware of its grave importance.

Honor indoctrination of the fourth class primarily will be the direct responsibility of the individual plebe's first classman. The fourth class enter the Academy from many walks of life and with varying backgrounds. The development of a uniform sense of honor among the fourth class can only be accomplished through conscientious effort on the part of every member of our class. This direct responsibility will be a stimulus and an opportunity for a revaluation of our own individual honor.

The basic goal of the Honor Concept is sometimes lost and should be constantly stressed. The Concept was not conceived with the idea that its application be restricted to our years at the Naval Academy. Its stated ideals should be integrated into one's own personal standards to be followed throughout an entire lifetime, be it spent in the Navy or elsewhere.

BRIGADE LEADERSHIP:

Effective Brigade leadership is completely the responsibility of the first class. It is imperative, therefore, that every individual within the Class of 1963 exercise a sincere effort to demonstrate effective, positive leadership toward the underclasses.

Three basic areas of self-discipline and leadership growth must be mastered by every member of our class in order to effectuate a noticeable and worthwhile leadership environment.

1. SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

The behavior, appearance, and attitude of the leader leaves an indelible impression upon his followers. If the underclasses are ever expected to live up to the standards set for the Brigade as well as make the mission of the Naval Academy a reality, the Class of 1963 must demonstrate impeccable officer-like qualities at all times. When the leader is in front of his men, there is no room for horseplay, there is no room for indifference, and there is no room for setting a bad example. Leadership at the Naval Academy is a 24 hour a day job. If the Naval Academy is to be the epitome of military institutions, every member of our class is obligated to lead the way for the underclasses to maintain this distinction after we leave to serve the fleet. The fleet needs men well trained in leadership principles. We all know them -- let's practice them.

2. GIVE LOYALTY IN ALL DIRECTIONS

As leaders of the Brigade, we owe loyalty both to our seniors and to our subordinates. It is imperative that we carry out the orders and directives of the Executive Department effectively and to the best of our abilities. If we ever expect the underclasses to receive our orders and policies with the desire to carry them out effectively and enthusiastically, we must give the same obedience to our superiors.

As leaders, the needs of our men are vital. Every effort by every member of our class shall be given toward the end of keeping morale high throughout the Brigade. The generation of school spirit and high morale must be from the top and then caused to flow throughout the Brigade. Loyalty down is equally as important as loyalty up. By taking a sincere interest in developing the underclasses for command and rewarding their efforts however possible, we the Class of 1963 shall set the morale level of the Brigade.

The United States Naval Academy is our academy now and will be for the rest of our lives. As such, we should remain intensely proud of it. In light of the above, our class will dedicate its efforts to insuring that no one degrades its name, and to prohibit any member of the Brigade from bringing disgrace to it through improper actions, speech, or appearance while in uniform or out of uniform.

Above all else we must remain loyal to the Naval Service and to our nation. We tend to often forget the blessings which are ours in the democratic society in which we live. Some very serious thought should be given to a quote from President Kennedy's inauguration address: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country."

3. EXERT POSITIVE METHODS OF LEADERSHIP

The search for reward and approval, not the fear of punishment, should be the prime motivating factor to cause subordinates to perform to the highest standards attainable. Our obligation as leaders is to be constantly aware of positive methods of leadership and to practice these principles faithfully, resorting to the conduct report and punishment if and only if all other positive applications of leadership have been exhausted. We will not tolerate a man who willfully and flagrantly abuses regulations; however, we will lend an understanding ear to men who inadvertently make the one minor mistake to which all human beings are entitled. By counseling rather than punishing the offender on his first mistake, we the Class of 1963 shall attempt to inspire our subordinates to achieve the highest standards of self-discipline and conformity to regulations. Although we shall afford everyone a second chance, strict discipline necessitates that there will not be a third chance.

Our main objective is good leadership. This aspiration calls for hard work and constant self-appraisal for every man. We spend four years at the United States Naval Academy, not to become technicians, mathematicians or scientists, but to become leaders in the military service. We must remind ourselves constantly that this is our job. If we do not fulfill these obligations, we can only expect humiliation, ridicule, and defeat.

PLEBE INDOCTRINATION:

Plebe indoctrination is one of our primary obligations to the United States Naval Academy. The fourth classmen will reflect our ability as leaders. It is our intention that that reflection be a credit to the Class of 1963. To that end we have adopted the following policy regarding the Class of 1966.

Plebe year is not an initiation, but a development process designed to further the Mission of the Naval Academy. This requires that every upper classman exert thought and effort when conducting plebe indoctrination.

Briefly, these are the objectives we intend to accomplish with the rigors of plebe year.

A plebe who:

- (1) Is confident of his own ability to meet new challenges
- (2) Is proud of his status as a plebe, as a member of his class, as a midshipman in the Brigade, and as a future officer in the United States Navy
- (3) Has a good knowledge and awareness of the world about him
- (4) Is well versed in the standards of social conduct required of him
- (5) Has a broad knowledge of the Navy, its organization, functions, and equipment
- (6) Recognizes the value of physical fitness in fostering the "will to win"
- (7) Is possessed of a driving desire to make himself an asset to the Navy through his own efforts

The individual first classman will be solely responsible, although not the sole contributor to, the accomplishment of these objectives with his own plebe.

In recognition of the increased emphasis on academics, we challenge each of the upperclass to use indoctrination methods which require low expenditure of time and produce a high yield of results.

The Class of 1964 will have authority and duties generally parallel to those of the first class except when modified by the Commandant of Midshipmen or company policy.

To the Class of 1965 we delegate the task of indoctrinating the plebes in the rules of social conduct, including military etiquette.

This is our policy on plebe indoctrination. It indicates directions in which to proceed and not the procedures themselves. Accepted as such it will be a vital force in accomplishing the Mission of the Naval Academy.

YOUR BRIGADE AND CLASS HONOR COMMITTEES

BRIGADE HONOR COMMITTEE

Chairman-1/c President-----Von Sydow, Vernon H.

Recorder-1/c Secretary-----Newton, John L.

Members--Brigade Captain--

1/c Battalion Representatives

1st Batt. _____

2nd Batt. _____

3rd Batt. _____

4th Batt. _____

5th Batt. _____

6th Batt. _____

Second or third class president of
accused's class.

BRIGADE WORKING HONOR
COMMITTEE

24 Company Representatives

Your Co. Rep. _____

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

6 Battalion Representatives

Your Batt. Rep. _____

FIRST CLASS HONOR COMMITTEE

Chairman-1/c Pres. - Von Sydow, V. H.

Recorder-1/c Sec. - Newton, J. L.

Members--Brigade Captain

6 1/c Battalion Reps.

Your Batt. Rep. is

SECOND CLASS HONOR COMMITTEE

Chairman-2/c Pres. - Sutton, Robert

Recorder-2/c Sec. - Baumruk, B. C.

Members--6 2/c Battalion Reps.

Your Batt. Rep. is

THIRD CLASS HONOR COMMITTEE

Chairman-3/c Pres. - _____

Recorder-3/c Sec. - _____

Members--6 3/c Battalion Reps.

Your Batt. Rep. is

FOURTH CLASS HONOR COMMITTEE

Chairman-1/c Pres. - Von Sydow, V. H.

Recorder-1/c Sec. - _____

Members--6 4/c Battalion Reps.

Your Batt. Rep. is

THIS IS YOUR HONOR CONCEPT

Honor, personal integrity, and loyalty to the Service, its customs and its traditions are fundamental characteristics essential to a successful naval officer. Any midshipman unable to conduct himself at all times in a manner indicating the highest standard of honesty, integrity, and manliness is unfit to hold a commission in the Navy or to enjoy the privilege of being a member of the Brigade. Therefore, any midshipman guilty of offenses of a dishonest nature, such as Falsehood or Fraud (including any form of deception or attempt to deceive, false muster or falsifying official records, including mustering or accountability situations, or any form of cheating) or of any offense indicating moral turpitude, is an individual unworthy to remain in the Brigade, and becomes immediately liable to a recommendation for discharge or dismissal from the Naval Service.

Your Honor Committee representatives are:

1/c

2/c

3/c

HONOR CASES AND DECISIONS

NEW CASES

OLD CASES

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