

# COMMISSIONING WEEK / GRADUATION

**Commissioning Week** is that one final, big **Yard Event**. Perhaps, the most memorable event in your **MID's** and your Family's Life!.

In the past, **Commissioning Week** has normally begun on the Friday prior to or preceding the **Memorial Day** Holiday Weekend in late May. This week will involve around either a normal week or be split over a 2-week period. **Commissioning Week** will begin with the **PLEBE Recognition Ceremony** also known as the **PLEBE Assault** on the **Herndon Monument**, or just simply **Herndon**, and will terminate with the **Graduation** and **Commissioning Swearing-In Ceremonies** several days later. However, since the Data and/or Information presented herein is subject to **change**, please remember to be sure to check with your **MID**, and the Information Packet received from the **Yard**, to ensure that you have the correct Times and Itinerary for the **Events** scheduled during this Week.

**YARD, AND/OR USNA AA, WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING HOUSE LISTINGS THAT MAY BE RENTED FOR COMMISSIONING WEEK FESTIVITIES - IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THIS LISTING BE INSPECTED AND SELECTIONS MADE AND SECURED NL FIRSTIE PARENTS' WEEKEND**

The **Events** that are scheduled to occur during that period known as **Commissioning Week**, which include Noon Meal Formations in **Tecumseh Court** throughout the week, as well as visits to the U. S. Naval Ships, at anchor, in the Bay, are too numerous to mention. Remember that the key to a successful **Commissioning Week** is for you to **Plan Ahead** and **Be Organized** - Be prepared for anything! Then, in this way, you, your Family, Relatives, and Friends will be able to sit back and enjoy this very special week a whole lot more. Therefore, if it is at all possible, try to arrive a few days early to the **Yard**, so that you will have that extra time to settle in. Also, review the **Yard's** Schedule against your Plan Of Action, so that you can deal with any of those last minutes changes. Of course, also ensure that you will be able to relax in --

## THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM!

### PREPARATION

Again, whatever you can prepare ahead of time and bring with you will be a big help considering all of the other things that you will be worrying about and trying to ensure that everything happens according to your plan. The following information is provided as guidance. It is up to you to adjust, or modify as necessary, to meet your Family's needs.

#### Meals/Food

Plan all of your Meals, as well as where you may be going to eat, as far ahead of time as possible. While **Annapolis** has many good restaurants, many of them do not take reservations. Also, order any Graduation Cakes, or Special Foods, well in advance of this **Event**. In addition, most of the local Grocery Stores or Supermarkets that offer Party Trays and Bakery Cakes, may even deliver.

#### Traffic

Remember that **Annapolis** is almost always busy with activities other than those put on by the **Yard**. As such, parking is very limited, especially in downtown areas. Very few of the residents whose Home you may be utilizing for the Week, has off-street parking. Also, do be careful where and how long you do park when downtown.

**Ticketing** and **Towing** are the rule, **NOT** the exception! Consider parking at the **Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium**. You can park all day for approximately \$4.00 and take a Shuttle to the **Yard**, or downtown. In addition, many of the hotels offer Shuttles as well. In any case, be prepared for large **Traffic Jams** and considerable delays in trying to navigate around **Annapolis** this week.

#### Tickets

Remember that Tickets are required for a large number of the **Events** that will be occurring during **Commissioning Week**. Check the Information that has been provided to you, both by your **MID** and the **Yard**; annotate those which you wish to attend that you will require Tickets. Have your **MID** obtain them as soon as possible. Also, the policy regarding **Graduation Tickets** changes periodically.

**MIDs** will **now** be allowed as many Tickets as they require provided that they turn in their number by the established Deadline. However, in case of inclement Weather, remember that only **4 Tickets** will be issued to each **MID**. Plan accordingly!

### Events

Remember to be sure and tell every one that is going to be in your Party, what functions that they will be going to and when, as well as where everyone will meet before and after the **Event**, what the plan is if anyone gets separated, and what the appropriate dress will be for each **Event**.

Also, discuss with your **MID** as to which **Events** that you **MID** will be attending, those that you will be attending, and those that you and your **MID** will be attending together.

### Details

Select a special place in the **Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium** to meet with your **MID** and your Party after **Graduation** for the traditional pinning on of **Boards** and **Bars**. Ensure that all in your Party know where this location is, and, if possible, conduct a **Dry Run**.

### Graduation

Plan to arrive at the **Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium** as early as possible on **Graduation Day**. Parking Lot opens at 0730 Hours (7:30 AM). Consider having a Tailgate Breakfast and plan a Tailgate Party afterwards to allow for Traffic to dissipate. If possible, try to be in your Seats prior to the **March-On** which will take place before the **Fly-Over** by the **Blue Angels**. Handicapped Seating is available, if needed.



### Weather

Be prepared for Hot, Humid Weather in **Annapolis**; bring Sun Protection and comfortable Clothing and Shoes; also, plan on wearing a Hat.

**REMEMBER THAT FORMAL EVENTS WILL REQUIRE DRESSY CLOTHES**

## TYPICAL SCHEDULE

### GENERAL

The group of important **Events** that comprise **Commissioning Week**, will occur, at varying times, depending upon the **Yard's** Administration, prior to and/or after the **Memorial Day Holiday Weekend**.

The following is a typical **Commissioning Week Schedule** that has been compiled, over time, from other **Commissioning Week Schedules**. However, it must be pointed out and stressed that the actual Schedule, Dates, and/or Times are subject to **Change Without Notice**. **SPPA** highly recommends that you refer to the Schedule that you have received in the Mail, from the **Yard** sometime in April, or check with your **MID** regarding these **Events**, or utilize the **INTERNET** at <http://www.nadn.navy.mil>, to access the **Public Affairs Office (PAO)** in the **Yard**:

### FIRST DAY

The **Second Class Ring Dance** will be held in the evening beginning at 2030 Hours (8:30 PM) and normally after the conduct of the **PLEBE Recognition Ceremony**. In addition, the **Third** and **Fourth Classes** may also attend and participate in this **Dance**.

#### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

2030-2400

Ring Dance

Dahlgren Hall

## SECOND DAY

A Continental Breakfast will be available in **King Hall**, beginning at 0800 Hours (8:00 AM). Baccalaureate Services will also be held that morning -- check the Schedule that you will receive in April of your **MID's FIRSTIE** Academic Year. In addition, a Gospel Choir Concert, in **Mahan Hall**, will be held in the early evening hours.

Also, there will be receptions for those **MIDs** who have elected to become **Naval Surface Warfare Officers (SWO)**, as well as for those **MIDs** who have selected the **Marine Corps (USMC)**.

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

0830-0930	Catholic Baccalaureate Service	Chapel
0830-0930	Protestant Communion Service	Chapel
0830-1030	Orthodox Baccalaureate Service	Chapel
1000-1045	USNA Band Concert	Gazebo
1015-1115	Jewish Baccalaureate Service	Chapel
1045-1145	Protestant Baccalaureate Service	Chapel
1600-1730	Gospel Choir Concert	Mahan Hall
1700-1930	<b>SWO</b> Reception	TBD
1700-1930	<b>USMC</b> Reception	TBD

## THIRD DAY

There will be a Dedication Parade, held at **Worden Field** to recognize the excellence of the Faculty. The Academic Departments will sponsor open houses during the afternoon, and the **PLEBE Recognition Ceremony** - the **Herndon Monument Climb**, may also be held this day and will begin in mid-afternoon. Also, the **USNA Alumni Association** will sponsor a Family Picnic in the afternoon, at **Alumni House**, which is located on King George Street a few blocks from the **Yard** exiting from **Gate 1**. In addition, a Glee Club Concert, in **Alumni Hall**, will be held in the early evening hours (Time to be announced);.

There may be Family cruises onboard the **Yard Patrol Craft (YP)** from 1200 Hours (12:00 Noon) until approximately 1400 Hours (2:00 PM), and also visits to any of the US Naval Ships, at Anchor, in the Bay.

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

1100	Dedication Parade	Worden Field
1400	<b>PLEBE Recognition Ceremony</b> Alumni Association Family Picnic	<b>Herndon Monument</b> Alumni House
2030	<b>USNA</b> Glee Club Concert	Alumni Hall

## FOURTH DAY

The **Blue Angels** will also be practicing, and that practice can be viewed from **Dewey Field** from 1145 Hours (11:45 AM) through 1345 Hours (1:45 PM). In addition, the Color Parade practice will be held at **Worden Field** (Time to be announced). Depending upon which Regiment your **MID** is in, you will be invited to a Class Reception at **Buchanan House**, the living quarters of the Superintendent. The First Regiment (Companies 1-15) will meet at 1700 Hours (5:00 PM), while the Second Regiment (Companies 16-30) will have the opportunity to meet in **King Hall** and have Dinner.

In addition, a Glee Choir Concert, in **Alumni Hall**, will be held at 2030 Hours (8:30 PM), and the **N Dance** will be held in **Hubbard Hall** for our Varsity N Winners at 2100 Hours (9:00 PM).

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

1000-1045	<b>USNA</b> Band Concert
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1145-1345	<b>Blue Angels</b>	Arrival/Circle/Practice
1700-2000	Superintendent's Reception 1st Regiment And Guests	<b>Buchanan House</b>
1700-2000	2nd Regiment And Guests - Dinner	<b>King Hall</b>
2030	<b>USNA Glee Club Concert</b>	<b>Alumni Hall</b>

## FIFTH DAY

A **Graduation Rehearsal** will take place at **Alumni Hall** in the morning, beginning at 0915 Hours (9:15 AM). Then, the **Blue Angels!** Be prepared for an interesting afternoon of Naval Flight Activities from 1300 Hours (1:00 PM) to ??? In late afternoon, the Second Regiment (Companies 16 - 30) will meet at 1700 Hours (5:00 PM) for their Class Reception at **Buchanan House**, while the First Regiment (Companies 1-15) will have the opportunity to meet in **King Hall** and have Dinner.

In addition, the Drum And Bugle Corps Concert, as well as the Electric Brigade Concerts will also be held this evening, and the **Graduation Ball** will be held in **Dahlgren Hall** at 2030 Hours (8:30 PM).

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

0915-	<b>Graduation Rehearsal</b>	<b>Alumni Hall</b>
1330-1400	<b>Drum &amp; Bugle Corps Performance</b>	
1400-1600	<b>Blue Angels</b> <b>Severn River</b>	<b>45-Minute Show</b>
1700-2000	2nd Regiment And Guests Attend Superintendent's Reception	<b>Buchanan House</b>
1700-2000	1st Regiment And Guests - Dinner Electric Brigade Concert	<b>King Hall</b>
2030-2400	<b>Graduation Ball - Midshipmen/Guests</b>	<b>Dahlgren Hall</b>

## SIXTH DAY

The **Color Parade** will be held at **Worden Field** at 1100 Hours (11:00 AM), the Prizes and Awards Ceremony will be held in **Alumni Hall** at 1430 Hours (2:30 PM), and the Farewell Ball will be held in **Dahlgren Hall** at 2030 Hours (8:30 PM).

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

1100	<b>Color Parade</b>	<b>Worden Field</b>
1430-1530	Prizes/Awards Ceremony	<b>Alumni Hall</b>
2030-2400	Farewell Ball - Midshipmen/Guests	<b>Dahlgren Hall</b>

## SEVENTH DAY

**Graduation** and **Commissioning Day!** Gates at the **Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium** will open at approximately 0730 Hours (7:30 AM), with the procession of Graduates, or **March-On**, beginning at 0915 Hours (9:15 AM). The Graduation Ceremony will normally begin at 1000 Hours (10:00 AM).

**BE PREPARED, IN CASE OF FOUL WEATHER, FOR GRADUATION AND COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES TO BE HELD IN ALUMNI HALL, WHERE SEATING WILL BE LIMITED**

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

0915-	Procession Of Graduating Midshipmen	<b>Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium</b>
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For all of **YOU** involved with  
**GRADUATION** and **COMMISSIONING** -

**ENJOY!**

## SUGGESTIONS

### GENERAL

The following is some additional Information and Suggestions. **Tips** that have been compiled over the past few Years of our **SPPA Members** attending their **MID's Commissionings**:

### SUGGESTION/TIPS

Plan to arrive one Day ahead, if possible, to settle in and check your surroundings, as well as to check on last minute details and prepare last minute Meals

Check to see if your Living Quarters have Blankets -- Weather has been known to turn

Cool, rather than always be Hot and Humid

Plan as many Meals as possible ahead of time; many dishes, casseroles, etc., can be frozen at Home and transported in a Cooler to **Annapolis**; do not forget to make plans for soda, beer, wine, whatever

Inquire as to availability of Grills -- if one is available where you will be staying, determine if it is charcoal or gas-powered

Ordering of special Graduation Cakes and most foods should be accomplished well in advance of arriving at **Annapolis**

If you plan to eat out in Restaurants, check out reservation status, many Restaurants will **ONLY** operate on a first come basis at this time - they will **NOT** accept Reservations

Think about hosting an Officers' Club Brunch after Sunday Services -- a good way to celebrate with Relatives, etc., who may not be able to attend **Graduation Ceremonies** and **Festivities** -- have your **MID** check out O-Club Requirements and Prices - now is not too early

Be prepared for parking problems for most **Yard** Events - where possible, utilize the Shuttle Bus from the **Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium**; also, be prepared for numerous traffic jams, before and after most **Yard Events**

If you scheduled to be in the **Yard** for an evening **Event**, you may **NOT** be able to leave and return in time -- take your Clothing and change in a Restroom -- also, for most afternoon **Events**, bring a Picnic Lunch and spend time along the **Sea Wall**

Each **MID** will receive 4 Tickets to the **Color Parade** for Bleacher Seating -- however, there is always plenty of standing room on the Parade Grounds

Make sure that your **MID** purchases all required Tickets well in advance for any **Events** requiring same, that you plan on attending

Make sure that you have an early, firm count for Baccalaureate Services, Graduation, etc., in order that your **MID** can secure the extra Tickets from other **MIDs** who may not have many Family, or Friends, coming to these **Events**

Be prepared for Hot, Humid Weather; bring Sun Screen, comfortable Shoes, and cool, casual Clothes for the day time; be sure everyone has the right Clothes, including a Hat for Sun Protection

Have your **MID** pack some of his/her unneeded belongings early and ship them Home early; also, try to ship any remaining unneeded belongings Home if/when someone leaves **Annapolis** in an empty Car. You will be surprised at what comes out of that Room

Some **Things of Interest**:

- ◆ **PLEBE** Climbing of **Herndon**, approximately 1400 Hours (2:00) in the afternoon, 4 Days prior to **Graduation Day**, **Herndon Monument**, **Chapel Area**
- ◆ Naval Review and **Blue Angels** Flight Demonstration, approximately 1300 Hours (1:00), in the afternoon three days prior to **Graduation Day**, **Robert Crown Sailing Area**.

Your **MID**, his/her Date, and his/her immediate Family are invited to the Superintendent's Garden Party. Check the Schedule for when your **MID's** Day will be -- First Half of **Brigade** (Companies 1 through 15) attend one evening and Second Half of **Brigade** (Companies 16 through 30) attend the other evening

Your **MID**, his/her Family, and all Guests are invited to the **Graduation** and **Farewell Balls** - - Dress is Formal or dressiest best

Remember to include your **MID's** Sponsoring Family, wherever possible

Ensure that your **MID's** Service Dress Whites are clean and ready to wear

Remind your **MID** to procure that **Ensign's** or **2nd Lieutenant's** Kit before the **MID Store**

runs out -- also that Sword and Case -- Also, remember that **Marine Corps** and **Navy** Swords are different

Plan to arrive early at the **Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium** on **Graduation Day** - prior to 0800 (8:00 AM). Plan a Tailgate Breakfast for all who are in your Party before and a similar one for after **Graduation** to let traffic thin out. Also, do an early checkout, or dry run, of your assigned Seating and ensure that everyone in your Party knows what Gate to enter

Your **MID** will receive as many Tickets as asked for provided the Number is turned in at the required Cut-Off Date for **Graduation Seating**. If it Rains, then the Brigade Activity Center is then the focus; and there are only **4 Tickets** available for Seating. Additional Tickets, if necessary, may be obtained for TV viewing. If you still require more Tickets, get your **MID** on it soonest, bugging Classmates who may have extras

Handicapped Seating is also available -- Check with the **Handling Office**, 410-293-2145

Be in your Seats prior to **March-On**, between 0900 - 0930 (9:15 - 9:30 AM) - **Blue Angels** Fly-Over is shortly after the **MIDs** take their Seats

Have a special place selected to meet with your **MID** after **Graduation** in the Stadium for the traditional pinning on of **Boards** and **Bars** -- Ensure that all in your Party know where to meet in case separations occur -- Ensure that your **MID** also knows

Also, remember that sometime during this period after Graduation, your **MID** must report to his/her Company Officer somewhere in the Parking Lot to pick up papers and checks

Do **NOT** forget that **SILVER DOLLAR** -- Tape **1** into your **ENSIGN's** or **2ND LIEUTENANT's** Cover for either, to give out for that First Salute

It is **YARD** Tradition that each newly commissioned Officer present a Silver Dollar to the 1st Person to rendering a Salute to the new Officer; Silver Dollar is to be full-size Silver Dollar; no Susan B Anthony, or quarter-sized Alloy Dollar Coin; Coin to be one with some significance, usually minted in Commissioning Year, or Officer's Birth Year Anniversary, or other significant Event -- Coin purchaseable at any Coin Shop, or on **eBay** -- Restraint recommended in purchasing, since prices vary greatly with Quality and Grade; do **not** want to give away valuable Collector Coin -- New, or **Uncirculated**, Coins available directly from US Mint, at [www.catalog.usmint.gov](http://www.catalog.usmint.gov), or Coin Shops.

Following identifies available Coins; prices will vary depending upon Market Value and Demand:

**MORGAN** - Minted from 1878 to 1904 in Philadelphia (No Mint Mark), New Orleans (O Mint Mark), and San Francisco (S Mint Mark)

**PEACE** - Minted from 1921 to 1935; not many minted

**IKE (EISENHOWER)** - Minted from 1971 to 1978

**SUSAN B ANTHONY** - Minted from 1979 to 1981

**SACAGAWEA** - Minted from 2000 to Present

**SILVER EAGLE** - Minted from 1986 to Present, contain 1 ounce of pure Silver

**GOLD** - US Mint started producing Gold Bullion Coins in 1986; available in 1/10, 1/4, 1/2, and 1 ounces

**PLATINUM** - Same as Gold Bullion Coins



**MORGAN**



**PEACE**



**IKE**



**S B ANTHONY**



**SACAGAWEA**



**LIBERTY**

**PROOF SET** – From Year that **MID** was born; another method of recognizing that 1st Salute; may introduce Coin Collecting, which can be very profitable over time, even to passive Collector(s)

Assign 1 Person to be responsible for and keeping track of your **ENSIGN's**, or **2ND LIEUTENANT's**, Cover and Insignia -- Also, know who will help with the pinning on of same

If possible, have someone go down onto the Stadium Floor for the Hat Toss -- You may get lucky and capture a **MID's** Cover for a Home Memento of this experience

Bring plenty of Kleenex, Film or extra Camcorder Batteries, Coolers, light Raincoats, and plenty of \$\$\$ -- Think about borrowing, or renting, a Camcorder

Arrange to acquire a Video Copy of the Annapolis Capital Newspaper which will be covering **Commissioning Week** -- They will be doing a feature about the **Yard** everyday

Prepare a Map to your Residence in the **Annapolis Area** and give it to all who may attend -  
- Include that Phone Number; tell everyone who will be involved what all of the plans are - where you will be staying, what will be attended, Seating in the Stadium, Meeting Places, etc. -- Plan ahead and keep all informed of any **Changes**

Know what your **MID** Plans on doing and where he/she will be while you and yours are doing your thing

If there is to be a **Wedding**, it is too late for this Year -- all Naval Academy Chapel Weddings must be planned a **Year in Advance**

Remember -- Plan Ahead -- Be Prepared -

**HAVE A GREAT TIME  
ENJOY THIS TIME  
YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT!!!**

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

If you are **NOT** a **FIRSTIE Family** and have the spare time, go to the **Yard** and attend as many of the

**Commissioning Week Festivities** as you possibly can. It will help you in planning for your Year.

Lodging may be difficult, but there are always last minute cancellations; every Year, there are more Rooms in the **Annapolis Area** than the last Year. Most will begin accepting Reservations 9 Months ahead of any **Yard Event** -- Some will even go beyond a Year.

Also, you can call the Maryland Reservation Center: 800-654-9303, for help if you have **NO** favorite place to stay, or are having trouble finding a place to stay.