



Elizabeth Ellis, *President*
 Michelle Smothers, *Vice President*
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Parents' Club of Mississippi Spring 2020 Newsletter

The Dark Ages



The early part of second semester at the Naval Academy is often referred to as 'the dark ages'. Holiday leave filled with family, civilian clothes, and sleeping in is over. It is dark, cold, and gloomy on the Yard. There are no football games and spring break seems so far away. Many find it difficult to keep spirits up and push through the daily grind that comes with being a USNA Midshipman.

To help combat these winter blues, the USNA Parents' Club of Mississippi sent all Midshipmen, Napsters, and our foundation school attendees a Mardi Gras themed package filled with moon pies, chocolates, doubloons, pralines, Mardi Gras beads, mask, glow stick and \$20! We hope this little gift from home helps remind them that the Mississippi parents are thinking of them always!

Thank you to all USNA Parents' Club of MS members whose dues support these efforts.



Find us on Facebook at USNA Parents Club of Mississippi
 or at
<http://mississippi.usnaparents.net/>

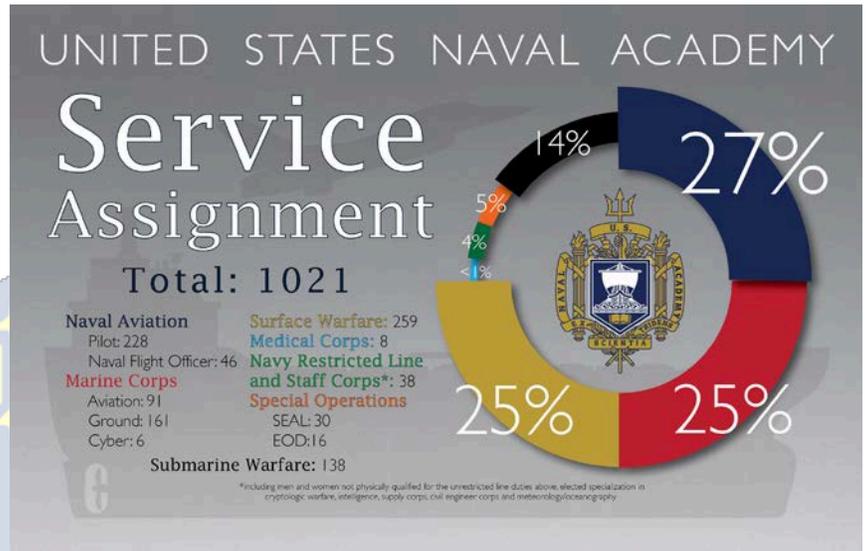
Service Assignment

After three years of rigorous training and study, our 1/C Mids submitted their career assignment preferences this past August as they returned to the Yard as Firsties. They can request up to 6 of the 24 available career choices between the Navy and Marine Corps. On November 21, 2019, they were notified of their Service Assignments and will report to their respective communities after graduation.

CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2020 on your Service Assignment and upcoming commissioning!

Our Mississippi Firstie's Service Assignments:

Marshall Adair	Marine Corps - Ground
Aaron Ellis	Marine Corps - Ground
Mason Fridge	Submarine Warfare
Ralph Moore	Navy Pilot
Thomas Reeder	Submarine Warfare
Cedric Williams, II	Surface Warfare



Christmas Dinner 2019

What a FABULOUS turnout we had at our annual Christmas dinner held at Table 100 in Flowood, MS! There were over 75 in attendance including Mids, Mid parents, Mid sibs, USNA candidates, candidate parents, and distinguished guests.

After a lovely dinner, First Class Midshipman were presented with an American Flag that was flown over the United States Capitol in their honor. Second Class Midshipmen were presented with proclamations signed by the Lt. Governor of Mississippi. All Mids received a gift that included \$20.20! The Mids participated in the traditional 'grilling' by Mr. Steve Guyton, which always provides candidates and their parents a lot of helpful (and entertaining) details about life on the Yard.

A very special **THANK YOU** to **Libby Ellis** for putting it all together! As always, she did an amazing job and continues to work tirelessly supporting our Mids and their families.



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“ We have the watch . . . ”

Our Mids have lost two of their own recently.

Ensign Joshua ‘Kaleb’ Watson ‘19 (10th Company) was killed in the shooting at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL on Dec 6, 2019.

3/C Duke Carrillo (24th Company) died during USNA’s semi-annual PRT on Feb 8, 2020.

Please continue to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

USNA ANCHOR DATES - Spring

1/C SWO Ship Selection	Jan 31
Six week exams	Feb 10-14
4/C Declare Majors	Mar 2-5
Spring Break (leave expires 2000 on 3/15)	Mar 9-15
Twelve week exams	Mar 30-Apr 3
Finals Week	Apr 30-May 7
4/C Sea Trials	May 12
3/C Youngster Luau	May 15
2/C Ring Dance	May 16
4/C Herndon Climb	May 18
1/C Commissioning Week	May 18-22

NAPS KEY DATES - Spring

MP2 Final Exams	Jan 27-31
Spring Break (leave expires 1800 on 3/11)	Mar 6-11
MP3 Final Exams	Apr 23-27
Graduation Ball	May 7
Graduation	May 8

PARENT CLUB ACTIVITIES

- All Jackson, MS area parents are asked to help at **Congressman Michael Guest’s ‘Military Academy Day’ to be held on Saturday, April 4th at Brandon High School from 8:30am-12:00pm.** Please volunteer to bring and serve food items to high school students interested in pursuing an appointment to a service academy and their parents. We always want the USNA table to be the best - BEAT ARMY! To volunteer, please contact Libby Ellis at usnapcms@gmail.com.
- The annual **Hail & Farewell luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 13th at Mama Hamil’s Restaurant in Ridgeland, MS from noon til 2:00pm.** This is a time to welcome our new appointees as they prepare for I-Day and bid fair winds and following seas to our newly commissioned Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants as they embark on their service to our country. All Mississippi parents are encouraged to attend to offer support to our new parent members and provide fellowship to those parents with sons and daughters beginning their next chapter. Invitations will be mailed and more details posted to our Facebook page.
- We are looking for parents interested in becoming a USNA Parents Club officer. To ensure the mission to support our Mids continues, **we need new club officers** as existing officers retire when their Mids graduate. If you are interested and/or have questions, please contact Libby Ellis at usnapcms@gmail.com.

Suggestions

Please send suggestions and ideas for improving our club to usnapcms@gmail.com



Pictures

Please share pictures of your Mid or Mid candidate on our Facebook page!