

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
(11-12 DECEMBER 2019)

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE (December 11, 2019)

The focus of the meeting was a discussion on how to improve the awareness of the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS) and STEM programs to students.

- USNA Website
- Need new and additional methods to make students aware of the programs
- Challenge USNA alumni to assist with spreading the word about the summer programs

USNA Applicants

- 2018: @ 16,300.
- 2019: @16,000.
- The number of applicants is not an even distribution across the country, i.e., many applicants from Maryland, Virginia, location of major naval bases, etc.
- Many congressional districts do not have ten nominees for each vacancy
- How can the alumni association and parents clubs assist the Admissions Office with making students who do not live near Annapolis and naval bases aware of the summer programs?
- The goal is to increase the applicant pool and to encourage applicants to complete the applications and visit the "Yard."

NASS

- Applicants (rising 12th graders)
 - 7,300 in 2019
 - 7,700-8,000 in previous years
- 68% of the attendees begin the application process, and about 65% of the attendees complete their application
- About one-third of those who receive offers of appointment to USNA have attended NASS. This includes direct appointees, candidates who attend NAPS and Foundation schools, re-applicants, and students who attend four-year colleges/universities, etc.

- Attendees
 - 2,550 in 2019
 - 2,850 in 2020
- Cost: \$550 which does not include travel.

STEM

- Applicants (rising 9th, 10th, and 11th graders)
 - 5,100 in 2019
 - 7,000 in previous years
- About 40% of the attendees complete the application
- There isn't a marketing budget for the STEM program; it is privately funded.
- Attendees
 - 750 in previous years
 - 840 in 2019
 - 960 in 2020
- Cost: \$600, which does not include travel.

Applications for the NASS and STEM programs are available in early January 2020

Candidate Visit Weekend

- Attendees: 2,000 (two-thirds are juniors in high school)
- About 80% of the attendees complete their application

Scholarships for NASS, STEM and Candidate Visit Weekends (CVW) Attendees

- 2019: \$31,000 was raised in 2019 by alumni, parents clubs, and shared interest groups (Women's and Minority Association)
- Donations came from members of 17 of the 101 alumni chapters (93 in the U.S. and 8 international chapters). FYI, there are 80 parent clubs.
- \$220,000 was spent by the Admissions Office on scholarships for all three programs in 2019
- There are not many CVW students who need scholarships
- Fundraising for scholarships needs to be a year-long focus

It is very important to get students, candidates, and their parents to visit the "Yard!" It is a difference-maker!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (December 12, 2019)

VADM Buck, 63rd Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy

Presentation (30 minutes)

VADM Buck and his wife Joanne received a great turnover from VADM Carter and his wife, Lynda.

VADM Buck's view of USNA (State of the Academy):

- USNA is in very good stead
- He needs to learn
- The foot is on the accelerator - move USNA ahead
- Turn over a better academy to his relief

The following are the Superintendent's "6 Cultures," which he believes are the foundation for graduates of USNA to lead once commissioned.

- Character
 - Community service: He is very proud of the 25,000 hours that the Midshipmen Action Group donated to the local community in 2019.
 - Gettysburg Leadership Experience
 - Experiential learning
 - The Naval Academy is a good neighbor
- Learning
 - Critical thinking
 - The world is a very diverse and complex environment
 - USNA has world-class facilities but they could and should be better
 - International programs
 - 500 midshipmen per year participate in an international program/experience
 - 100 midshipmen participate in the "semester abroad" program
 - Naval Academy ranking in the "Top Schools" by U.S. News and World Report
 - Public Schools: #1.
 - National Liberal Arts Colleges: #17.
 - Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs: #4.

- Giving Back, Volunteer Hours: #4.

- Fitness
 - Physical mission
- Accountability
- Winning
 - Expect to win
 - Will to win
 - Find a way to win
- Excellence

The following are recent USNA Command Evaluations

- Sexual Assault and Gender Relations Focus Groups, Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy Assessments
- Command Climate Survey
- General Command Inspection

The Superintendent believes the following are shortcomings at USNA. These areas will be a major focus for him during his tour.

- Sexual assault (see discussion below)
- Operating budget for USNA (there is an annual shortfall)
- Improvement of facilities and infrastructure
 - Work is being performed on several structures
 - The chapel dome is being replaced after 97 years
 - The Center for Student-Athletes at Rickets Hall
- Sea level rise

Class of 2020 Service Assignments

- 1,181 and 15 international students
 - 22% attended prep programs
 - 7% attended a four-year college/university
- Service assignments
 - USN: 74.8%.
 - USMC: 25.2%.

- 94.8% received their first or second choice
- 87% received their first choice
- 95.4% unrestricted line
- 4.6% restricted line
- The following link provides additional information about service assignments

Questions and Answers (30 minutes)

1. There were questions about sexual assault, and the Superintendent went into great detail about the subject. The following are highlights of his discussion:

- He was a flag officer in an operations billet, and he was pulled from the billet to lead the Sex Assault and Prevention Program for the Navy
- He will "take this issue to his grave" that is how important it is to him
- "Sexual assault is not a drastic problem at USNA, but one assault is too many."
- "Fleet problems require fleet solutions. Brigade problems need Brigade solutions." It is up to Company Officers, the Commandant, and Superintendent to teach them.
- He believes that not enough time is spent discussing what is right rather than what is wrong. "What does right look like?"
- The Commandant is leading the effort on sexual assault

2. A question was asked about the issue of The Satanic Temple, and the Superintendent provided the following:

- A small group of midshipmen was interested in learning about the Satanic Temple, not the religion or philosophical belief. There was a curiosity. This was a study group, and the intent was not to worship.
- The Superintendent stated that "there will never be an opportunity to worship the Satanic Temple at USNA."
- A group of midshipmen (about 25) asked for a room to assemble which was granted
- The Constitution of the United States grants the Right to Assemble
- Only ten midshipmen showed up for the second meeting
- There haven't been any meetings since

- VADM Buck has "not heard a word about it in several months."

3. A question was asked about the Cyber Security major at USNA.

Several members of the Class of 2016 were the first to enter this field as an officer. Hopper Hall (will open on 22 May 2020) will have areas that are rated for "Top Secret," so midshipmen with the appropriate clearance will be able to use the areas for their studies and work. The Superintendent believes that this is a game-changer.

4. The Superintendent was asked about the quantity and quality of the food in King Hall. He has eaten in King Hall on several occasions, and he believes that there needs to be a top-down study to evaluate the purchasing, preparation, cooking, and serving processes. He needs to have a better understanding, and this will be another area of focus for him. He strongly believes in proper nutrition since graduates need to be in the best physical condition as possible. On a side note, he discussed sleep deprivation and believes that the use of personal electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, computers, etc.) is interfering with sleep.

5. The Superintendent discussed the First Link Program (see the following Instruction). The following is an excerpt from the Instruction.

"Upon completion of Plebe Summer, 4/C Midshipmen officially join the Brigade of Midshipmen. As part of this initial phase of membership in the Brigade, each 4/C Midshipmen will be assigned a unique name from Memorial Hall. This unique name, and the details behind the life and sacrifice of the alumni etched in stone in Memorial Hall, serves as a "first link" to USNA and a key component of a 4/C Midshipman's professional development."

6. A question was asked about vaping by midshipmen. The Commandant answered the question and stated that it is becoming an issue, and there isn't a good solution right now. Vaping is not permitted in Bancroft Hall.