

Another Link in the Chain Program (ALITC) Highlights and Opportunities

The Another Link in the Chain program forms bonds and relationships between current midshipmen and members of the 50-year class counterpart throughout the four years on the Yard and beyond. The midshipmen are buoyed and encouraged by the physical presence and moral support of the senior Alumni, and members of the 50-year class counterpart enjoy working with the current midshipmen in their development as Navy and Marine officers.

A verse of the “Laws of the Navy” reads:

*Upon one link in the cable
Dependeth the might of the chain
Who knows when thou mayest be tested
So live that thou bearest the strain*

Forging Links in the Chain - Binding and bonding classes through the generations is critical to carrying on the history and traditions of the Naval Academy and its Alumni. From Induction Day to Commissioning and beyond, the 50-year counterpart Class becomes a part of the Naval Academy experience for the Brigade. Participation by the Classes is voluntary.

The annual venues normally open for ALITC support and engagement according to USNAUNST 1531.48C are as follows:

4/C Year

Reef Points. The ALITC chain class has the opportunity to provide a short history to the Commandant of Midshipmen for inclusion in their junior class’s Reef Points.

ALITC classes are encouraged to provide a class representative(s) to the many Alumni Association sponsored Parents Club and/or Chapters’ pre-I Day send-off parties/receptions for midshipman candidates held across the country. Please encourage interested classmates to visit www.usna.com to find Parent Clubs or Chapters near them.

Plebe Summer Induction Day. Induction Day provides opportunities for support by Alumni, such as providing a banner or photo board to publicize the relationship with the incoming class, greeting candidates and their families outside of Alumni Hall, attending the Alumni Association’s Plebe Parents Picnic, attending the Oath of Office Ceremony, and visiting with midshipmen (especially those unaccompanied by families) after the ceremony. The coordination will be handled between the Superintendent’s Office and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

Cost: The Alumni Association asks the senior class to help sponsor the event financially to offset costs. Classes have offered up to \$3000 in support of this large event, donations are optional, but should at least be enough to cover the cost of classmates and spouses eating lunch.

Plebe Summer Formal Parade. During the plebe summer training experience, there will be a number of formal parades scheduled. At one of the designated parades, and ALITC representative will be invited to co-review the parade with another distinguished guest. The coordination will be handled between the Plebe Summer Officer in Charge and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

Honor Coin Ceremony. At the end of Plebe summer, the Plebes take the Honor Oath and pledge allegiance to the Honor Concept of the Brigade of Midshipmen. After learning about the concept and what is required and expected of midshipmen, that is the first opportunity to place themselves under the higher standard set for midshipmen. As a physical reminder of this commitment, each Plebe is presented with an honor coin, specially made for their class with their class year and the presenting class year inscribed (e.g., Class of 2005, Presented by the Class of 1955). The honor coin is designed and made by the 50 year class and presented to the Plebe's by members of the Alumni class. The 50 year class also provides one guest speaker to talk about honor, commitment and courage during the ceremony. This event is coordinated each year by the Commandant of Midshipmen and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

Cost: Approximately \$7.50 per coin (\$9,750)

Plebe Parent Weekend. One or two members of the ALITC class to attend the Superintendents brief to parents.

Sea Trials. The year of Plebe training culminates in a daylong event known as "Sea Trails". The Plebe's mental and physical endurance is tested during the 12 hour event where they participate in obstacle courses, physical endurance tests, and basic seamanship and problem solving exercises designed to foster team work under stress. The 50-year class is invited to observe the day long events and attend the culminating event/meal to congratulate the Plebes. This event is coordinated each year by the Class Officer and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

Herndon Monument. The final step for the Plebe class is the traditional Herndon Monument climb. The senior ALITC class will be invited to sit in a front row designated section (50 seats will be provided), from which to encourage and witness the Plebes become "Plebes no more". This event is coordinated each year by the Commandant of Midshipmen and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

3/C Year

Bonds of Gold. In the Spring, the midshipman class officers accept donations of personal Naval Academy rings and Naval Academy ring miniatures of the senior ALITC classes (e.g. 1917 and 1967 for the Class of 2017) in a solemn "Bonds of Gold" Ceremony in Memorial Hall. The

donations also include any 100 year link rings in the Alumni Association ring bank. The donated rings are then melted down and added to the gold that will be used to forge the midshipman's rings, creating a lifelong physical bond between the two classes.

Youngster Luau. At the end of 3/C year, the entire class meets at a designated venue for an informal picnic to celebrate being halfway through the Naval Academy program. The ALITC class has historically made a donation of funds to the midshipmen class to help pay for the event and has members of the class attend.

Cost: Ranges from \$500-\$1000

2/C Year

Commitment Dinner. Members of the 2/C class will make their commitment to the Naval Academy for the final two years. The event is a reception followed by dinner in King Hall during which the midshipman stand and reaffirm their obligation to the Naval Service and the USNA Honor Concept. Representatives of the 50 year class will attend the reception, and sit among the midshipmen during dinner. An inspirational key note speaker is provided by the 50 year class. This event typically happens on the first or second night of fall reform, and therefore is planned very last minute. This event is coordinated each year by the Commandant of Midshipmen and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

Ring Dance. Members of the 50 year class are invited to attend the 2/C Ring Dance in Alumni Hall.

1/C Year

Service Community Assignment Night. 50 members of the ALITC class will be invited to attend a dinner in King Hall in honor of service assignments. The 50 year class will provide a guest speaker to talk about military careers. This event is coordinated each year by the Class Officer and the Alumni Association ALITC POC.

Battalion Receptions. There are 6 Battalion receptions for 1/C Midshipmen held at the Alumni House located at 247 King George Street in Annapolis which offer an opportunity for the first class midshipmen (by battalion) to meet and greet classmates and spouses from the senior class and the USNA AA&FDN staff. These receptions welcome the 1/C class to their Alumni House, as well as pass on information about the Alumni Association and build the bond between the two classes. This event allows for a more relaxed atmosphere to mix and mingle with the graduating class. One member of the senior class will address the midshipmen at each reception for 3-5 minutes. Dates are determined each year, and the receptions are scheduled from Late January through the end of February.

Marine Corps Heritage Award. The 50 Year Heritage Award is presented by the ALITC class as part of the Another Link in the Chain program. Through the program, classes are bonded to link generations and experiences. The ALITC seeks to recognize a Marine Select who demonstrates

the greatest commitment to achievement in professional military education, especially history and naval heritage, and leadership potential. The awardee is nominated by his or her peers and screened by their Marine Officer Practicum instructors. Midshipmen who passed screening with their instructors were briefed at the board and over a 2 day period the officers and senior enlisted voted based on the criteria of the award and the demonstrated qualities/performance of the midshipmen briefed. Final approval of awardee selection is completed by the senior Marine on the Yard. A Marine rep on the Yard will provide a stand in sword for ceremony.

Cost: approximately TBD

Graduation. 12 chosen presenters from the 50 year class will personally hand out engraved ENS/2Lt bars at graduation. The 50 year class will purchase the bars to present at graduation. The class will also design an insert to be placed in the box of bars. The Alumni Association has a template each class will use. The Class will work with the Alumni Association POC to design and print the inserts and have the gold bars made.

Cost: approximately \$7,500 for bars and inserts

Graduation Brief. Happens on the Wednesday before graduation. The bar presenters will be introduced by the A-LITC representative.

Color Parade. Typically happens on the Thursday before graduation, but is subject to change. A limited number of members of the senior class and their spouses or guests will receive invitations. The number is determined by USNA leadership. The parade typically begins at 1100 on Worden Field.

Graduation/Commencement. The twelve presenters and spouse will receive an invitation to sit in VIP seating on the grounds at Navy/Marine Corps Stadium. In the event of inclement weather and graduation is held in Alumni Hall only 8 of the twelve presenters will be needed to present bars. The presenters will personally present gold ENS/2nd Lt bars, engraved with both years on the back, to each graduating Midshipman as he/she descends from the dais. Invitations will include security and parking passes. Other members of the senior class will receive tickets in a reserved section of the stadium- limit of 50.

Delayed Graduation. Delayed graduation will occur in August or December. Delayed graduation ceremonies are standard, but scaled down and usually take place in Memorial or Mahan Hall. The midshipmen at each delayed graduation will receive the gold Ensign/2nd Lt bars from one member of the senior class. Other members of the senior class may observe the ceremony.

The Annual Action and Activity Schedule by month is as follows:

December

Incoming 4/C Link provides class history for Reef Points

Previous 1/C Link attends final Late Graduation (when needed)

1/C Link designs graduation bar inserts

January

Graduation bar insert design is sent to printer.

Incoming 4/C Link begins designing the Honor Coin for their Plebe class. There is an Honor Coin Officer on the Yard. The ALITC POC decides who in the Class will design the coin, and then sets up a meeting with the ALINK group and Gary from Capital Gifts. The Coin must have the USNA Crest on it, and the words "Honor", "Courage", and "Commitment" on it. The coin can vary in shape and size. The Class will work directly with Gary to create, and have the coins shipped to Alumni House once complete. The ALITC class pays for the coins, and the cost is typically around 6K.

Battalion Receptions

Alumni Association contacts the USNA Ring Coordinator Officer to obtain the Bonds of Gold Ceremony Date. 3/C ALITC solicits members and widows for rings to contribute to ceremony.

February

1/C Battalion Receptions

Graduation bars are ordered.

March

1/C Link provides AA with names of 12 presenters of bars at Graduation

April

3/C Bonds of Gold

May

4/C Sea Trials Ceremony
1/C Graduation Brief
3/C Youngster Luau
2/C Ring Dance
4/C Herndon Climb
1/C Marine Corps Heritage Award
1/C Color Parade
1/C Graduation

June

4/C I-Day
4/C I-Day Welcome aboard Picnic
4/C I-Day Oath of Office Ceremony
4/C Parade during Summer Training

July

4/C Honor Coin Ceremony

August

4/C Plebe Parent Weekend
1/C Delayed Graduation
2/C Commitment Dinner

November

1/C Service Community Assignment Night

December

1/C Delayed Graduation

Activities by Midshipman Year

4/C Plebe Year

4/C I-Day
4/C I-Day Welcome aboard Picnic
4/C I-Day Oath of Office Ceremony
4/C Parade during Summer Training
4/C Honor Coin Ceremony
4/C Plebe Parent Weekend
4/C Sea Trials Ceremony
4/C Herndon Climb

3/C Youngster Year

3/C Bonds of Gold
3/C Youngster Picnic "Luau": 50 year class provides monetary support and attends.

2/C Year

2/C Commitment Dinner: Members of the 50 year senior class attend and provide keynote speaker.
2/C Ring Dance: Officers of the 50 year senior class are typically invited to attend.

1/C Year – Graduation

1/C Service Community Assignment Dinner
1/C Battalion Receptions: Opportunity for 1/C to meet and greet classmates and spouses from the senior class and the USNA AA staff.
1/C Color Parade: 50 year class (small number) attend as guests.
1/C Marine Corps Heritage Award
1/C Graduation Brief: Intro representatives who will present bars at graduation.
1/C Graduation/Commencement: Gold ENS/2nd LT bars engraved with years presented.
1/C Delayed Graduation: August and December