



Commissioning 101- Meeting Discussion Guide January 21, 2012

The final verse of *Blue and Gold* says it all.

*Four years together by the Bay
Where Severn joins the tide,
Then by the Service called away,
We've scattered far and wide;
But still when two or three shall meet,
And old tales be retold,
From low to highest in the Fleet
Will pledge the Blue and Gold*

Introduction of Alumni Parents:

Jim and Kathy Berg ('11), Paula Bunting ('11), and Catherine Trauernicht ('11)

Topics of Discussion:

The purpose of this guide is to provide questions for thought with the intent of it being helpful as you prepare for your family's Commissioning experience.

- 1. Highlights of 2012 Commissioning Schedule:** What are all the events/activities listed? Which ones are Brigade wide and which have selective attendance for extended family/guests?
- 2. Lodging:** – Recommended Locations: Using your own, a rental home, hotel, B&B. Where would you recommend for families if they live more than 20 miles away? Needs/Requirements: Family size, invited guests, out-of-town lodging, Mid's lodging Entertainment and party requirements, distance, travel time

3. **Guests / Extended family:** Who are local and who are from out-of-town, transportation, guest meals, inclusion into official Academy programs, special needs (disabilities)?
4. **Gifts:** Sources for Gifts unique to the Academy/ Commissioning events
Commissioning gifts for other Midshipmen: roommates, team mates, company mates, company officer/Sr. Enlisted, favorite instructors/staff, chaplain, etc.
Commissioning gifts for your graduate- what are the options (swords, insignia chests, memory boxes, photo albums/scrapbooks, etc.)?
5. **Graduation Parties:** Who should be invited (besides Mid's friends), location, food, expense, party favors, which ones parents attend, when to hold them, etc.?
6. **First Salute Coins:** The history of the tradition, what is involved, where purchased (source), quantity, who should bring it to the stadium on Commissioning Day, other forms of "salutes" besides the coin?
7. **Mid's status during CW:** When does your Mid leave Mother-B, where do you store belongings, how much of their time is dedicated to family vs. friends or official activities not including family? What are the required "joint" events with you?
8. **Walk through Commissioning Day Events:**
 - a. When will stadium / parking lot open?
 - b. Should we serve breakfast to our guests?
 - c. Should we walk/drive?
 - d. Recommended dress code (weather, comfort, etiquette)
 - e. Seating (how many provided, when to reserve, Brigade Company seats, open seats for your guests, location for disabilities, photography, sightlines)
 - f. Designated meeting place
 - g. Putting on the officers' bars (girls un tape their sleeves)
 - h. Photo opportunities- where is a good location, how long do you expect to take, who should be included, what about your Mid wanting to meet up with company/team mates?
 - i. Lunch Options- stadium, restaurants, lodging location, meeting other families
9. **Life after the Academy:** Moving on to the next assignment, rentals, moving effort/expense, training/education, etc. What is taken to next assignment/and what is stored/given away?
10. **Post Commissioning / Transition period:** Social obligations, weddings, shorts trips, vacations, moving, when does the next phase begin?