

Greeting '96 Classmates.

It's time for an annual update. In no particular order...

1. PENSACOLA SHOOTING

First, a moment to recognize our classmate (CAPT Tim Kinsella) for the incredible leadership during the horrible events this last week in Pensacola. Let's also remember ENS Joshua Watson, a recent USNA graduate that helped save peoples' lives after being shot 5 times. A true hero.

2. COUNCIL OF CLASS PRESIDENTS

- I attended the COCP on 6 Dec and captured some of the highlights:

- **From the Alumni Association** (brief attached):

+ They are looking to fill an open position for their V.P. of Finance. If you have a CPA/MBA/accounting background and are interested, they would love to have you

+ Ground breaking for the new Alumni building in ~1 year

+ They will sell the old building that we know outside gate 3 (Ogle Hall)

+ Next week, they will begin dismantling the chapel dome. 90 years of neglect took a toll on the dome and it will be completely replaced. Once replaced, it will be a bright copper for ~7 days, then for ~25 years, it will be brown until the patina chemical reaction occurs.

+ They will recover all of the copper and make a variety of keepsakes to sell

- **From the Supe** (details in attached brief)

+ ADM Buck hasn't made any drastic changes since CoC on 26 July

+ They have introduced numerous outdoor small-team leadership programs in austere environments to force people outside of their comfort zone (e.g., not just leadership in a company or sport team). Similar to YP training but with a variety of options.

+ USNA Grounds are in bad shape. The yard is underfunded.

+ Flooding is a huge issue. Affects Hampton Roads at downtown Annapolis too.

+ Sleep Deprivation is a big issue.

+ Addressed recent Satanic Cult rumors. At no point has USNA ever (or will ever) allow a Satanic Cult to worship as an official club/activity. If they choose to meet on their own time, they have the freedom to assemble.

+ King Hall is in bad shape. There are issues with quality and quantity.

+ 96% of Firsties got their 1st or 2nd Choice at Service Assignment night. 2020 is a very small class so there are minimal people that selected Restricted Line.

3. CLASS GIFT UPDATE

30 Year Class Gift. We are currently just over \$200k pledged/donated toward our class gift (with 190 classmates participating. About 30/190 is on recurring monthly pledges).

Help up improve midshipman development and the yard: Consider pledging ~\$1 a day. You can set up the \$30/month to be charged straight to your credit card.

Side Note: You could be on recurring pledges but they *may* not be going to the CLASS GIFT (so 96 gets credit for your donation but it isn't going towards our \$600k goal). The only way to know is by calling USNA or Brian Reardon at Brian.Reardon@1996.usna.com.

Give here <https://www.usna.com/give>. Make sure you choose "other donation options" then "support my class project" then select "pledge". Or **call 410-295-4115**

4. ARMY/NAVY GAME

If you are in Philly for the game, we will have a no-host social at Tir na Nog Saturday morning about 10:00. Show up and order what you want. If you prefer tailgating at the stadium, Johnny Harnett will be there in the parking lot. Contact him for details. john_a_harnett@yahoo.com.

5. NAVY/NOTRE DAME GAME

Don't forget to plan for the trip to Ireland to watch Navy/Notre Dame 29 Aug 2020. People are planning to meet up with friends and classmates. Last time was a blast!

6. YOUR [USNA.COM](https://www.usna.com) PROFILE

A message from Shane Macdonald to remember to update your profiles at [usna.com](https://www.usna.com). We spent time collecting a lot of updated details on people then USNA changed their policy and we can no longer make changes for people. You are responsible for yourself now.

7. '96 WEB PAGE

As a reminder, for those that don't have facebook (or can't stand going on it any more), Cara Albright maintains our class web page that repeats much of the same information from facebook. <http://1996.usnaclases.net>

8. ACTIVE DUTY RETIREMENT

As a wave of or classmates approach their retirement, don't forget to reach out to your class for questions, recommendations, help, etc... Other resources include:

- Jenn Campbell runs The New '96 Hour. An opportunity to hear about various topics monthly. <http://1996.usnaclases.net/the-new-96-hour/>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Rhoan Boucher is booked 24 Jan spot

TBD on the 21 Feb spot

- Our LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4583229/>
- Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) <https://sacc-jobfair.com/>
- Benefit Finder <https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/state-veteran-benefit-finder>

9. SUICIDE AWARENESS

The class of 96+2 is still pushing suicide awareness very hard after their string of incidents. Please consider downloading the app **OBJECTIVE ZERO** and **becoming an ambassador** today. You just need to be ready to answer the phone if someone needs you.

10. ALUMNI WATCH BUY

The class of '89 has organized a group Bremont USNA watch-buy. Cost is \$3k (retails for \$6k). Details in the link. <http://1989.usnaclases.net/alumni-watch/>

11. SINGING AT GAMES

There were questions about why some teams sing their alma mater after home & away games and others don't. The Academy coordinates with each team a couple of months before the game and asks if they would like to sing their alma mater after the game. Some schools agree and some don't care. It is up to the individual school.

12. BLUE AND GOLD OFFICERS

USNA is looking for more people to be B&G officers. We have several in our class so if you have questions about what it entails and job satisfaction, please reach out to Sharon (Eliassen) Barbins s_eliassen@yahoo.com.

13. 25 YEAR REUNION

Most of our large muscle movements are done and we eagerly await our 25th Reunion. It is scheduled for 1-3 Oct, 2021 (USAF Game) and our home base hotel will be the Westin. We are working on some alternatives for other hotel blocks to give people options. Put it on your calendars now and start saving!

14. 25 YEAR CRUISE

Cruise Planners has put together a cruise trip that will provide a great opportunity to share in our 25th and '91's 30th anniversary of being commissioned. The 25th anniversary commissioning cruise that we have put together is a 9-night Norwegian Cruise Line cruise aboard the Norwegian Escape from May 28th, 2021 through June 6th, 2021 (second option is 3 - 12 July 2021). The cruise sails from Copenhagen, Denmark and sails to Warnemunde (Berlin), Germany; Tallin, Estonia; Overnights in St Petersburg, Russian Federation; Helsinki, Finland; and Nynashamn (Stockholm), Sweden before returning to Copenhagen. The current pricing has a 30% discount promotion running through December 13th, 2019. There may be other sales, and while our group pricing is better than "regular" prices, this promotional pricing should be the lowest we can get. Deposits are only \$50 per person and refundable, so if you are interested, please contact Dan so he can give you more information as well as reserve a cabin for you. He can be reached at: 844-GoNavy-1 (844-466-2891); via email at Dan@GoNavyTravel.com. (price is ~\$5k/couple)

Dan will be on this cruise with members of his class on the May/June cruise as well and he looks forward to sailing with you for your 25th anniversary of commissioning.

With that, I sign off. Please feel to reach out with any questions or comments.

Nagel Sullivan

301-904-1526