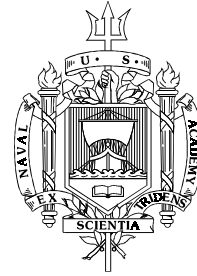


**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
April 2003**



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE LOBSTERFEST

ARMY-NAVY GOLF CLASSIC COMING SOON

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 4/15 | April Board Meeting |
| 4/18 | April Luncheon |
| 5/02 | 7th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic |
| 5/13 | May Board Meeting |
| 5/16 | May Luncheon |
| 6/08 | 29th Annual Lobsterfest |
| 6/17 | June Board Meeting |
| 6/20 | June Luncheon |

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I will skip my usual summary of upcoming events and activities this month and get right to the important issue of the day. As I wrote my column last month, President and Commander-in-Chief George W. Bush had just given Iraq its final deadline to completely disarm or face invasion by a coalition force lead by the United States and Great Britain.

Not wanting to "share" my cold with my co-workers at the office, I am working in my home office today. This has given me the luxury of watching some of the morning news coverage of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I couldn't have picked a better day. It is 10:50AM and I have just witnessed on live television the toppling of a large statue of Saddam Hussein that stood in Firdos Square outside of the Palestine Hotel in downtown Baghdad. This is the building where many journalists and news correspondents were required to stay by the now defunct Iraqi government as they covered the war. The destruction of the statue was a joint effort by a throng of excited Iraqi citizens, U.S. armed forces, and a Hercules recovery vehicle (a vehicle designed to pull disabled tanks and such out of trouble). It was both a symbolic and historic moment. I am sure that these images will be replayed by the media all around the world. It is certainly etched indelibly in my mind.

Just a few hours earlier this morning ABC news correspondent Richard Engel, reporting from the roof of the Palestine Hotel, expressed concern that the situation there was rapidly changing. U.S. forces

were getting very close and he was concerned that in a last ditch effort the Iraqis that had controlled all the journalists in the hotel might round them up or take them hostage. No less than an hour later, a much relieved Richard Engel was relaying pictures of U.S. armed forces in M1A1 Abrams tanks and M2A3 Bradley fighting vehicles parked on the street right in front of the hotel. Shortly thereafter, Iraqi citizens started coming out of their residences, cheering, waving their shirts, and greeting the U.S. soldiers with words of thanks and gratitude, and even flowers. Once the initial tension was broken the attention of the Iraqi citizens quickly focused on the statue of Saddam. The statue didn't last long!

It has been a mere three weeks since the word to "go" was received and Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced. In such a relatively short period of time our armed forces moved from the outer borders of Iraq to downtown Baghdad. I really don't have the words to express my gratitude and appreciation to our troops for their dedication to duty, their exceptional performance in combat, their precision attacks and constant regard for minimizing civilian casualties. I believe the conduct of our troops has demonstrated to the world that, even at war, we are a compassionate and ethical people.

No war is without cost, and we still have a way to go. The last American casualty figures I saw today were these: 96 killed in action, 155 wounded in action, 8 missing in action, and 7 prisoners of war. These are the true heroes, those who give full meaning to the phrase "freedom in not free".

I have just two opportunities left to address the Atlanta Chapter in this forum as Chapter President before my term expires in mid-June. I hope that in that time we will see the end of the armed conflict in Iraq and much progress made toward the establishment of a new government for the people of Iraq.

God bless America, and God bless our troops defending freedom around the world.

Bob Schultz '71

CHAPTER NEWS

29th Annual LobsterFest

The 29th Annual LobsterFest is Sunday, June 8th. See the separate information flier and reservation form for complete information. Sign up now!

April Luncheon –

Business Networking Opportunity:

This month we do not have a speaker on the agenda, so we will have another Business Networking opportunity. We will give attendees the chance to take the podium for several minutes for the purpose of business development or to share job leads. This is a great opportunity to use the Naval Academy network to help each other! Regular monthly luncheons are held at noon on the third Friday of each month at:

Jocks & Jills Sport Bar & Restaurant
4046 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA
Phone: (404) 816-2801

Dan Struble '83, 5th Fleet Historian for Operation Enduring Freedom speaks at March Luncheon

Dan is presently Vice President for Principal Gifts at the United States Naval Academy Foundation where he was the founding staff member and one of the primary architects of its current \$175 million campaign on behalf of the Naval Academy. Steve Maconi, Director- Major Gifts for the Foundation, was also visiting Atlanta on this trip. However, their visit to our Chapter luncheon was for a different purpose.

After the events of 9-11, 2001, Dan was called-up to serve as 5th Fleet Historian during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. His assignment was to document Navy combat operations through both oral history and pictures. His tour lasted eight months, during which he spent six months at sea on 22 different ships. He flew on various combat

missions, visited eighty commands in eight different countries, and interviewed 250 different people from Seaman to the 5th Fleet Commander. What a tour!

This experience provided Dan with a unique perspective on Operation Enduring Freedom and we were very fortunate to have him share that with us. We got a first-hand account of what it was like to serve in that arena, how the various branches of the service coordinated operations, what life was like for the service men and women, and a short course on "how to tell a good guy from a bad guy" in that land. There was much more to tell, and Dan told it! Unfortunately much of it cannot be posted on a public forum, such as this web site. See... you should have been there!

Thanks to Jim Ravenel '45, for arranging for Dan to speak to us.

Present for the luncheon were Jim Ravenel '45, Bill Wideman '35, Robert Schultz '71, Linda Schultz (Guest), Irene Sanders (Guest), Bill Rentz '55, Dan Struble '83, Steve Maconi, John Stark '51, Charlie Hill '42, Lorie A. Moore '64, Shaun G. Bradley '78, Bill Williams '65, Paul Hurst '62, Paul Smith '42, Richard Wilson '64, Martha Wilson (Guest), Jack Johnson '55, Doug McDaniel '61, Jim Todd '55, Jim Hatch '47, Mike Miller '56, Paul Gawryszewski '84, Will Wood '66, Bayly Taff '84, Ed Brownlee '81, Terry Anderson '65, Brad Jones '83, Reggie Vachon '58, George O'Connell '35, Ted Miller '87, Mitch Rowland '71, Skip Gunther '65, Dale Herndon '56, Jim Slemenda '66, Susan Slemenda (Guest), Mario Maddox '85, Jim Traa '61, Steve Frederick '72.

7th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic **Coming Soon**

The 7th annual ARMY - NAVY Golf Classic is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 2 for golf against the Whoops and to help a good cause. Veterans and rookies alike are being sought to defend Navy's victory last year as well as our 5-1 overall record in this annual grudge match.

This year's event will again be held at Fort McPherson's Golf Club and will include range balls, 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes, and dinner, all for \$70.

Our charity work again this year is aimed at sending less fortunate youngsters in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades to the two-week Summerscape math and

science camp at Georgia Tech. Proceeds from last year's event allowed us to send five young boys and girls to Summerscape, giving them a leg up on life and new ambitions for completing high school and going on to college. Our goal is to help these kids become good and productive citizens (and possibly attend one of the service academies).

We want to do better this year as we have with each successive year and are looking for a record turnout. So please come join us and fill out the attached form, enclose a check, and send it to the address appearing on the form. We would also appreciate any support you or your company or social organization might be able to provide in the form of prizes (goods, golf apparel, gift certificates, dinners, etc.). BEAT ARMY!!!

Blue & Gold Update: **2003 Admissions for Georgia**

By the middle of April, USNA hopes to have the incoming class of 2007 set. These next few weeks will be a critical turning point in a lot of student's lives. I'm sure we all can remember the anxiety and fear that we had waiting for "that letter" from USNA. Last year, we had around 350 students from Georgia apply to USNA and we were able to send 35 along with a few NAPsters and some Foundation Scholarships. Georgia typically sends between 25 and 35 kids a year to USNA.

As of 1 Apr 03, Georgia has 14 students that have been offered and accepted appointments to USNA. We have another 7 that have been offered appointments but have not responded back to USNA. There are 5 students that have Letters of Assurance/Conditional Offers from USNA which means that if they are found to be medically fit and have a nomination, they will be offered an appointment.

Georgia has 4 students that have been offered a Foundation Scholarship application and one has returned his application and been selected for the Scholarship. There are 3 students that have been offered and accepted NAPS and another student that has been offered NAPS but not responded yet.

As volunteer Blue & Gold Officers (BGOs) it is always exciting this time of the year to see promising

candidates that we have interviewed and counseled are being accepted to the Academy. In addition to helping and interviewing individual students, we also aid USNA by participating in college/career nights in their communities, act as congressional liaison at the local level, seek opportunities for favorable publicity for the Naval Academy in local communities, develop a close rapport with principals and counselors in assigned high schools and community colleges, and present Certificates of

Accomplishment to appointees. BGOs can be any USNA alumni, active duty and Naval Reserve officers, retired military personnel, and interested civilians. For more details on the program, please see the past articles in the USNA Atlanta Alumni newsletter or contact Cindy Miller at (770) 650-8921 or cindymiller@1990.usna.com.

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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Address Correction Requested.