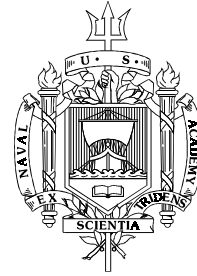


**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
February 2003**



**JOHN D. ENDICOTT, PH.D.
TO ADDRESS CHAPTER IN FEBRUARY**

DARK AGES PARTY THIS MONTH

Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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Bill Rentz '55

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BLUE & GOLD CONTACT

Cindy Miller '90, H: (770) 650-8921

EVENTS CALENDAR:

2/15	Founder's Day Party
2/18	February Board Meeting
2/21	February Luncheon
3/18	March Board Meeting
3/21	March Luncheon
5/02	7th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Dark Ages are upon us! By the time you read this you should be dusting off your best formalwear and heading out to NAS Atlanta for our Chapter Dark Ages Party on February 15th. It should be a great forum for celebrating the founding of the U.S. Naval Academy. Hope to see you all there.

Besides our regular monthly luncheons on the third Friday of each month, our next major event is the 7th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic on May 2nd at Fort McPherson. Mark that date on your calendars now, and watch future newsletters and the Chapter web site for reservation information as the event nears. Next, in early June, is the nationally renowned Atlanta Chapter LobsterFest! Keep June 7th open on your calendar for now. We'll confirm that date as time approaches.

Now on to a much more serious topic. I don't think I need to remind anyone that on Saturday, February 1st, this country lost the seven pioneers who piloted the space shuttle Columbia. Among that crew of astronauts was Commander William (Willie) McCool, USNA Class of 1983. I am deeply saddened to have lost yet another shipmate when the memory of many other lost shipmates from not that long ago are still fresh in my mind.

In case you don't know much about Willie, here are some highlights. Willie was born on September 23, 1961 in San Diego, California. He graduated from Coronado High School, Lubbock, Texas, in 1979; received a bachelor of science degree in applied

science from the Naval Academy in 1983, a master of science degree in computer science from the University of Maryland in 1985, and a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1992.

He was an Eagle Scout; graduated second of 1,083 in his class at the Naval Academy; presented "Outstanding Student" and "Best DT-II Thesis" awards as graduate of U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Class 101; awarded Navy Commendation Medals (2), Navy Achievement Medals (2), and various other service awards.

Willie completed flight training in August 1986 and was assigned to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 129 at Whidbey Island, Washington, for initial EA-6B Prowler training. His first operational tour was with Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 133, where he made two deployments aboard USS CORAL SEA (CV-43) to the Mediterranean Sea, and received designation as a wing qualified landing signal officer (LSO). In November 1989, he was selected for the Naval Postgraduate School/Test Pilot School (TPS) Cooperative Education Program. After graduating from TPS in June 1992, he worked as TA-4J and EA-6B test pilot in Flight Systems Department of Strike Aircraft Test Directorate at Patuxent River, Maryland. He was responsible for the management and conduct of a wide variety of projects, ranging from airframe fatigue life studies to numerous avionics upgrades. His primary efforts, however, were dedicated to flight test of the Advanced Capability (ADVCAP) EA-6B. Following his Patuxent River tour, he returned to Whidbey Island, and was assigned to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 132 aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65). He served as Administrative and Operations Officer with the squadron through their work-up cycle, receiving notice of NASA selection while embarked on ENTERPRISE for her final pre-deployment at-sea period. He has over 2,800 hours flight experience in 24 aircraft and over 400 carrier arresments.

Willie was selected by NASA in April 1996 and reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. He completed two years of training and evaluation, and qualified for flight assignment as a pilot. Initially assigned to the Computer Support Branch, he also served as Technical Assistant to the Director of Flight Crew Operations, and worked

Shuttle cockpit upgrade issues for the Astronaut Office. He was then assigned as pilot for the Columbia launch.

I hope that Willie and all his crewmembers can hear me when I say "thank you" for dedicating their lives to the advancement of science and the service of mankind. That's why they go where they go... because of dedication and service. We all know that. But not only that, I think they go because of the great adventure. An adventure not without risk, but worthy of their valiant efforts.

Please keep the family and friends of all seven Columbia crewmembers in your thoughts and prayers.

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

Bob Schultz '71

CHAPTER NEWS

February Luncheon: **John E. Endicott, Ph.D** **Addresses Chapter**

John E. Endicott, Ph.D., will speak at the February 21st luncheon. John is Director of the Center for International Strategy, Technology, and Policy at Georgia Tech.

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

Business Networking Luncheon **Held in January**

At January's luncheon we held our first business networking luncheon. About eight to ten shipmates took the podium for a few minutes to talk about their business, jobs they seek, and hiring

opportunities. Be sure to check our website for other job postings. Present for the luncheon were Robert Schultz '71, Bill Rentz '55, Johns Jaudan '55, Ed Jeter '76, Teb Bowman '63, Cindy Miller '90, Kary Brownley '93, Baily Taff '84, John Stark '51, Les Gable '70, Jim Hatch '47, Wade Deliberto '97, Mitch Rowland '71, R I Vachon '58, George Connell, Jr. '35, Steve Frederick '72, Paul Smith '42, Jim Traa '61, Paul Borer '70, Doug Edwards '86, Mark Dixon '90, Brad Jones '83, Matthew Kirby '94, Jim Slemenda '66, Carl McCallum '60, Ken & Sharon Thomas '73, Mario Maddox '85, Steve Carrington '92, and John Fry '80.

Join us at 3rd Annual Dark Ages Party

What: Chapter's 3rd Annual (members only) Dark Ages Party celebrating the founding of the Naval Academy. Our guest of honor will be Colonel David Vetter, USMC (Ret.), Dean of Admissions of the Naval Academy. Catered dinner and dancing to a live four-piece band.

When: Saturday, February 15, 2003. Cocktails at 6pm, dinner at 7pm.

Who: All 2002 Atlanta Chapter dues paying members will receive a formal invitation in the mail. If you'd like to join the Chapter this year, you can pay for your dues and the party at the same time.

Where: Flight Line Club, N.A.S. Atlanta.
See the Events Calendar page on the Chapter web site for maps and directions.

Dress: Black-tie optional.

How: Call Carl & Marilyn McCallum at 770-973-1096 to RSVP, then mail check, payable to USNAAAA, to:

Mr. Carl McCallum
295 Millbrook Farm Road
Marietta, GA 30068

Cost: \$60 per couple or \$30 per person. Includes dinner, entertainment, wine, beer, coffee. Cocktails are pay-as-you go.

BGO Notes:

Naval Academy Preparatory School & USNA Foundation Scholarships

I would like to thank the USNA Atlanta Alumni Association for allowing me to write a monthly article about the USNA Blue & Gold Officer system. With each month's article, I am going to try and give some helpful insight into the current admissions process at USNA since alumni are one of the major sources of recruitment for the Academy.

Cindy Miller '90

Blue & Gold Officers (BGOs) are volunteers that aid USNA by assisting and counseling interested students regarding nomination and admissions procedures, interviewing candidates, assist in the Academy's minority recruitment effort, participate 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.

Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS)

NAPS is located at the Naval Education Training Center (NETC), Newport, Rhode Island. Its primary purpose is to strengthen the academic foundation of outstanding enlisted men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps, (Regular and Reserve), who desire to obtain commissions through the Naval Academy. A limited number of the most promising unsuccessful civilian candidates are offered the opportunity to attend the Prep School. There are approximately 200 members in the student body at the start of each academic year.

A ten-month course of academic instruction, from July to late May, emphasizes preparation in English composition, mathematics, chemistry, and physics. For each of these subjects, students are placed in classes according to their ability, educational

background and need. Complementing this academic program, the school has military and physical training programs to prepare students for the challenge of plebe year at the Academy

To be considered for entry into NAPS, a candidate must be (1) a U.S. citizen, (2) of good moral character, (3) single, with no children, (4) at least 17 and not have passed his/her 23rd birthday on July 1 of the calendar year in which the candidate would enter the Naval Academy.

Any young man or woman who completes an admissions file for the Naval Academy will be automatically considered for the Naval Academy Preparatory School should he or she fail to be selected for direct entry to the Academy. Throughout the candidate cycle the Admissions Board selects candidates for the Preparatory School by screening the admission files of candidates who may not enter the Academy directly that year. The candidate's leadership potential and academic background are reviewed as well as evidence of motivation. A candidate must be medically qualified.

The Naval Academy Foundation, Inc.

Through a scholastic program, the Foundation is

able to provide one year of post-high school education to qualified young men and women who need further academic preparation to enter the Naval Academy. Thanks to the Foundation, more than 2,500 service-oriented candidates with excellent leadership, scholastic, and athletic potential have prepared for the rigors of the Naval Academy and the military since 1944.

The Naval Academy Foundation's Preparatory Program benefits promising candidates who are not appointed the first time they apply for admission. To enhance their qualifications for admission, the Foundation awards a limited number of scholarships for post-high school preparatory studies in a participating school.

The Naval Academy's Admissions Board automatically recommends candidates to the Foundation for sponsorship consideration. No special request is required. The Naval Academy Admissions Board typically recommends 500 candidates for the Program each year. Only 80 are selected as finalists. To find out more about the Foundation, go to <http://www.usnafoundation.com/AthleticScholarship/AthleticScholarship.htm>.

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ATLANTA CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 76684
ATLANTA, GA 30358**

Address Correction Requested.