

Shipmate January-February 2013
Duke Longworth
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I love the fall and winter! It's football season! By the time you read this we will know if Navy won Army – Navy game and the Commander-in-Chiefs trophy. I'm expecting a rousing game as the Black Knights have a shot at the trophy for the first time since 1996! GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY! You'll receive my annual game report in the next column.

My first note is from the 36th Company annual ski-cation / reunion organizer, **Jan Milligan**. "Hi guys, Here are the confirmed: we have (10) for Feb. 28 - Mar. 3 - **Mike Trice**, **Mark Horgan**, **Lee Burgess**, **Don Beaudette**, **Craig Welling**, **Bruce Gallemore**, **Ron Spratt**, **Jim Barron**, **Garry Holmstrom**, and **Jan Milligan**. Regrets from **Clive Graham**, **Steve Joens**, **Karl Athow**, and sadly our founder, charter member and Organizer Emeritus, **Sonny Naple** can't make it this year. **Lee Roberson** is a maybe. Any of the rest I never heard from. (Okay keen reader – the no reply includes your's truly! This is I must go!) I don't need to pay the balance until December 30, so I'm giving everyone lots of lead time so you can budget Christmas, Thanksgiving, expiration of the Bush tax cuts and all of that. So, sometime before December 30, mail me your check. We'll talk food and beer later. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving. Jan." So the perennial question remains, "Will Duke make the reunion this year?" I surely hope so! I've been saving and planning all year. So, if there's no blizzard stopping travel I'll be there!

Here's a superb note from **Bob Capra**: "Hi Duke, the weekend of October 13-15, 2012 found the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) Class of 1967 / USNA '71 gathering on the grounds of the former U.S. Naval Training Center Bainbridge, MD for its first ever reunion. While the Friday evening "*All Hands Reception*" was held at our headquarters hotel in Aberdeen, the main event followed Saturday morning with a "*Return to NAPS*" and a memorial service in front of the once grand Tome Memorial Hall. A Saturday evening dinner at VFW Post 8185 in Port Deposit, and a Sunday Brunch Cruise on the Susquehanna River aboard the *Lantern Queen* out of Havre de Grace would complete a memorable weekend.

"Attendees included 47 classmates, 6 former instructors / staff officers, 36 spouses and 16 guests (3 from earlier NAPS classes). Classmate and former student Battalion Commander **John Condon** served as Master of Ceremonies while key note speakers included: Maryland Delegate David Rudolph representing Cecil County; our former Commanding Officer, CDR **Arlis J. Simmons '53**, USN (Ret); one of our former Company Officers, COL **Donald Christy '62**, USMC (Ret); and the current Commanding Officer of NAPS (Newport), CAPT Jim Cunha, USN,

"By all accounts the weekend delivered as old friendships were renewed and sea-stories flowed without end. Some may have even been true, but all improved with age. It was the perfect opportunity for each NAPster to thank the instructors and staff officers for serving as great role models and mentors during our formative years. It was also a time to remember those who have gone before us.

"It was a labor of love for the reunion committee that included: **John Condon**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Ken Marks**, **Wally Poleshaj** and me. As Ken tackled the task of locating as many

classmates (grads and non-grads alike), instructors, and staff officers as possible, he managed to determine the whereabouts or passing of 75% of all students / staff. For the record, August 1966 saw 198 active duty Sailors and Marines reporting to NAPS Bainbridge. By May 1967, 109 would gain admission to Annapolis. For reasons we will never understand, two fellow NAPSters accepted appointments to West Point! Of the 111 entering service academies, 42 would be commissioned Ensigns or 2nd Lieutenants, and 34 would complete 20 or more years of military service. The class produced one Rear Admiral (**Dave Polatty**), 8 Navy Captains (**Bob Annis, Drew Beasley, John Brandes, Fred Gorris, David Howe, Ken Marks, Wayne Peters, and Mike Wilson**), plus a number of career field grade officers and senior enlisted personnel.

“With the bonds that joined us together so many years ago reconfirmed, we created a NAPS Class of 1967 website. We invite all classmates to visit www.naps1967.com, to enjoy the many pictures, videos links, and historical documents of interest. I am attaching a copy of the picture of our NAPS '67 classmates and staff in front of Tome Memorial Hall during our “Return to NAPS.” For the reunion committee, Bob Capra.” Sounds like a superb reunion! I hope our readers visit the website. Please see the photo below.



My next note is from **Wally Poleshaj**: “**Marcelo Arcil** (24th Company), and his wife of 5 days, Martita, came to the USA on their honeymoon in mid-October. We hosted them for a week at our condo near Annapolis. Since this was Martita’s first visit to the USA, we did the Annapolis/USNA scene before spending two full days touring Washington, DC. They also took a day trip to northern MD to spend the day with Ruth and **George Perkins** - one of his USNA roommates whom he had not seen since 1971. While in Annapolis we also had an impromptu get-together at a local watering hole with several couples representing the 11th Company. See the picture below.



"Starting at the left and going around the table: Marcelo Arcil, Cass Young, Karen Young, Wally Poleshaj, Bill Butler. Kathy Butler, Nancy Poleshaj, Susan Brighton, Steve Brighton and Martita Arcil."

"Before departing for a four day visit to NYC, Marcelo made an obligatory shopping run at the Midshipmen's Store which he had not visited since graduation. Needless to say, his credit card took a major hit!

"Marcelo and Martita, and their son Nico live in Viña del Mar, Chile and they extend their greetings and an invitation to all classmates to drop by for a visit at any time."



"Marcelo and Martita wedding photo"

Too soon it's time to close. Life is short, so love with all your heart, give generously to those whom you love, and speak words of peace and life to all. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in their travels. We have several classmates in business and

government leadership who can use our thoughts and prayers, too. There is plenty of work remaining for us as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke