

U.S. Naval Academy: Contemporary and Historical Information Resources - Transcript

Good afternoon. We have another terrific webinar for you entitled U.S. naval academy, historical and informational resources. I'm with tech support. With us today is our presenter, Bert Chapman who is a long-time webinar presenter. And also a long-time coordinator and he is a librarian at Perdue University libraries. Before we get started I'm going to walk you through a few housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions that you would like to ask Bert or if you have any technical issues, please feel free to use the desk tops. It is located in the bottom right hand corner of your screen. I'll keep track of all of the questions that come in, and at the end of the presentation I'll read them back to Bert and he'll respond to each of them. We're also recording today's session, and we will e-mail a link to the recording and slides to everyone who is registered for this webinar. And you will also be sending you a certificate of participation using the e-mail you used to register for today's webinar. If anyone needs additional certificates because multiple people watch it, include the title of today's webinar along with the names of e-mail addresses of those who need certificates.

desk top computer or laptop users may zoom in on the slides being presented, click on the full screen bottom in the bottom left side of your screen. To exit the full screen mode, mouse over the blue bar at the top of your screen so that it expands and click on the return to get back. At the end of the session we will be sharing a webinar satisfaction survey with you. We'll let you know when the survey is available and the URL will appear in the chat box. We very much appreciate your feedback after the session, including comments on the presentation style and value of the webinar. So with that I'd hand the virtual microphone over to Bert and he'll take it from here.

okay. Good afternoon. And thank you for joining us, this presentation. Last month I did a presentation from the U.S. military academy at West Point, New York and today we're an hour or two south of West Point to visit contemporary historical information resources from the U.S. Naval Academy.

and the U.S. Naval Academy is like many other educational institutions having to cope with the consequences of a pandemic, and so this is the website. And it looked like as of a few weeks ago when we started prepping this presentation. I'm going to give you -- coping with the coronavirus. Access to the Naval Academy personnel, on December 29 of last year, the Navy superintendent, Vice Admiral Buck said that 200 upper classmen may live with family members or spouses around commute to the academy this spring. The testing and the quarantine is going on. 15% of the brigades tested the each week. They had a fall semester positivity rate of less than 1% compared to 4% to 10% for Anne Arundel County which is the Maryland county where Annapolis is. They began phasing in the vaccination on January 14th. Many employees telework and instruction is hybrid. The academy is located on the receive earl river and the purpose is preparing the young men and women to become professional officers in the Navy and Marine Corps, and the midshipmen, they're preparing for active duty in the Navy. And the academy for four years and they graduate with a bachelor's of science degree and they also receive commissions in the Navy or second lieutenant in the Marine Corps, and they serve at least five years in the Navy or Marine Corps upon graduation. A look at the historical background. The initial idea for a naval academy was proposed in 1925 for President John Quincy Adams. He urged congressional status for the formation of scientific study for officers. It takes a while for ideas to germinate and come to fruition, but through the efforts of the Navy Secretary George Bancroft, an academy was established without congressional funding on a 10-acre course, Port Republic, Maryland until October of 1945. The initial curriculum included mathematics, navigation, gunnery, chemistry, English, natural philosophy and

French. And it became what we now know as the U.S. naval academy in 1850 and midshipmen were required to stay for four years and train aboard ship over the summer. The campus size would gradually increase—from 10 to 138 acres in the sub went 170 years, and enrollment would increase from 50 to just over 4,500. Let me find a little information about Bancroft. He lived from 1800 to 1891. He was secretary of the Navy from 1845 to 1846, and he would later serve as U.S. ambassador to Prussia and later Germany. He was a very prominent historian. His works included a 10-volume history of the United States. He also wrote on the history of the Oregon trail.

he placed the importance of using original sources, and he was heavily influenced by German historical writing and methodology which emphasized primary sources, including government documents.

Bancroft hall at the naval academy is named for him and I'll be telling you a little bit more about that structure shortly. This is Bancroft hall. This is the residence for all 4,500-plus midshipmen. It has 1,700 rooms, 4.8 miles of corridors and midshipmen are grouped into companies of 150. The admissions process is similar to West Point and other service academies, and my last presentation on West Point, I mentioned -- I showed the application form that the congressman from my district in Indiana has that potential candidates have to fill out and going to congress. Approximately 3,000 students qualify annually for the naval academy, 1,400 receive appointments and 1,200 eventually become midshipmen. We have included samples of physical fitness test requirements.

so you have to do the vary pull-ups, crunches, push-ups, you have to run a mile in a certain amount of time. And a couple of other things.

there have been numerous prominent events in the academy's history. In 1853, the gas works construction was completed. The naval academy won the early institutions to have potential heat and light. That same year the department of astronomy, navigation and surveying was established, and all of those are very important activities in carrying out naval operations and ocean graphic experiments. Due to the civil war, Maryland was a state, the naval academy located to Newport, Rhode Island, and a couple of decades after the civil war the naval war college was established in Newport, Rhode Island. And then in 187 'the U.S. naval institute was founded to advance naval literally, professional and sign ting knowledge. This is -- scientific knowledge. This is not legally, but it is a major publisher of literature on naval practice. They put out a prominent publication.

and then in 1882 graduates were authorized to enter the U.S. marine corps. In 1906, John Paul Jones, the American revolutionary war, his body was moved to Dalton hall in the academy. In 1930, the association of American Universities, it was accredited.

in 1945, the department of aviation was established reflecting the important role that aviation began playing in naval operations in the 20th century advance, particularly influenced by developments in World War II. In 1949, Wesley Graham became the first African-American graduate of the academy. He served in the Korea and Vietnam, and he also served after those wars in the Navy shiv I engineer corps with many domestic and international assignments. And I also believe he later became a professor at Howard university in Washington.

in 1975 the engineering studies complex was completed and the admiral Rickell, who is really one of the key individuals involved, the submarine program.

in 1976 the first women were admitted to the academy. And 1980 is when they first graduated. And 27% of current midshipmen are women.

the curriculum is up to date with involving developments in science to meet the requirements of naval operations. So in 2006, Arabic and Chinese became new academic majors. Six years after that in 2012, cyber security became a new major. And in 1958 -- excuse me, 2018, Arizona senator John McCain, who is a graduate of the class in 1958 was buried in the naval academy cemetery. There have been a number of prominent naval academy graduates throughout history. President Jimmy Carter graduated in the class of 1947. Anthony, the secretary of veterans' affairs during the first George W. Bush administration, graduated in 1957. Five chairs of the joint chiefs of staff have been naval academy graduates. Indiana U.S. senator Todd Young, who is pictured on the left, is a 1995 graduate of the academy. Numerous astronauts have also been graduates of the academy, including the NASA administrator from the class of 1958 who served as NASA administrator during the Obama Administration. The U.S. representative -- I think it is Mike Chertoff from New Jersey. He is a graduate class of 1994. Admiral Chester Nimitz of World War II fame. And for those of you who are basketball fans, David Robinson, who is a long-time NBA center with the San Antonio Spurs and philanthropist is a 1987 graduate of the academy.

coming -- the three basic elements, the national -- the natural sciences and humanities and social sciences, and so graduates can think critically. Core academic courses and practical teaching. Or training to teach the leadership and special skills part of the naval and marine corps individuals. Academic majors strive for midshipmen, and prepare graduate level and the curriculum majors' insight, science, technology, engineering and medicine. Known as STEM. This is a listing of the majors that you can take at the academy. And there are lots of scientific oriented things, things on engineering and naval sciences, but there is also political science, studies in history as well as languages like Arabic and Chinese.

the core classes are required for all midshipmen regardless of their academic range, plus major courses specific to those selected academic majors, and there is also actually information on how the course work is structured, and depending on when classes are offered. And the upper class include a mixture of major and core courses. There is more information on it here. In order to prepare midshipmen for whatever part of the naval or marine corps they'll serve in.

this is about the history made, so they want, the methods, writing an analysis, understanding forces and individuals, and contemporary affairs studies, so you can take that course work in American, European, regional history, and, of course, naval and military history.

and they also have foreign language requirement as well. And so this is -- the marine engineering core. So they design a large section, a variety of things, including objects over 1,500 feet long and aircraft carriers, submarines, underwater vessels, and things such as unmanned robotic craft. And they can also be involved in land vehicles, aircraft, airplanes and spacecraft design is. and there's more information about the program. Class size. This is relatively individualized instruction.

this is about the oceanography major, and so they -- and they take courses in oceanography, meteorology, applied mathematics, and they have corrected all kinds of the Rhodes scholar, and I'll explain the scholars in just a little bit.

and they include geological oceanography, G. I.S., polar oceanography, marine mammal organizations and things with climate change, meteorology, environment. Very throw row list of possibilities.

here are some of the courses you can take. So, for instance, American naval history. And then historical reading and grand strategies. This course will cover historical time periods from ancient Greece up to the present. And it mentions reading, writing and scugs intensive.

and then, of course, the importance of east Asia in our international diplomatic, economic and political and military bases, Asia is a very appropriate topic. And also because of the naval brat influence. It is also important and they list prerick sits you have to take and pass because you can take these courses.

some of the courses for naval architecture and engineering, including marine applications and principles of ocean systems engineering, and so those are some of the things that are done within those courses. And computer aided drafting. Here is another course, principles of ship performance. All levels of how a ship operates. And coastal engineering, dealing with the different climatic and environmental factors that can affect ship performance and areas close to shore. And they place emphasis on using army corps of engineers' design.

in terms of oceanography, kind of a general survey, and the lab exercises on the Chesapeake bay, in the Chesapeake bay, and various aspects of physical oceanography.

introduction to meteorology. Climate can play a role in operations.

there is also tactical oceanography and how various factors can play a significant role in conducting combat operations in ocean environment. Political science major covers a number of different areas, including international relations and American politics as well as geographic subdivisions within the world and the subdivisions within the division of political science.

so classes, introduction to global strategic study, and then there's also international relations stressing various theories. International relations, business Marc, realism, 19th century german chancellor, and idealism from 20th century Woodrow Wilson.

political psychology .

and then there is also the trident scholar program. This is a program for very high-performing midshipmen to engage in independent study and research during the senior year at the academy. And the scholars are mentored by academy. And you can expand their knowledge. There is a website on the academy's website that has listed from 1964 to the present. And this is a fairly recent one. Her name is midshipmen, Jamie Lee. And she did a project for map applications. So she provide as description of it. It is computer science-related field, and it is the storage of a large amount of data on a cloud server. And it mentioned her advisor from the naval academy. And there is also an external collaborator from George Washington university.

this is an abstract of a description of the project. And not being a computer scientist, you can actually -- from the website, there will be a link to midshipmen presentation on YouTube. So this will contain the outline and the steps you follow. And then you can view the trident star research on the information center. So this is a report, a fairly recent one by the midshipman called consistent target detection and tracking. So this is artificial intelligence. So here they're talking about multivehicle autonomous, algorithms and search and track targets in a defined subject area, and it has more information about what the author's accomplished with her work. And it has the work. And with any good research paper,

it will have conclusions and suggestions for possible future areas of research. This is a somewhat older report from the 1990s called open water resistance, shifted ice breaking bows. So this is talking about how the law of research, the performance on ice fields. But this individual is wanting to concentrate on the ship, the transit to ice fields, and there is some information on there. And this is the emphasis on how climate change, this is three decades old. It is good information for somebody who is doing research on that subject. So here is the table of content. And so this is weighing in at around 90 or so pages. And then the author has included the suggestions for future research that they considered important at the time they prepared this work. The naval academy has a library. , which is the library and the navy academy publications can be found in the range. So the library has lots of information about the academy's history and various resources, some of which has been digitized. And this is the special section and archives department. So here is a picture, and that is what the date is of the midshipmen, and then this tells about some of the different digital collections they have. There will be battle reports from World War II, things on academy history, information on academy facilities, correspondence, and other things. So they mention from the midshipmen, Josiah Beckman, who lived from 1838 to 1911. He was from Westfield, Connecticut. He was admitted in 1853 as the class of 1858. He resigned a couple of years later due to various conduct offenses, including intoxication. But he later partially turned his life around. He went to Union College and Yale Medical School. He practiced in the community in New York State before returning to his Connecticut community to manage the family drugstore.

and he married in 1873 and he and his wife had three kids. So this is a letter he sent to I think his dad in 1853, April of 1853, and it is handwritten. I had to crank up the resolution to make it somewhat readable. This is a picture of the naval academy chapel exterior in 1873. And here is a picture of the chapel's interior in 1874. Now, the chapel can be used for a lot of events. The purpose is still a chapel and serves the religious needs of the midshipmen.

and just before the end of 2019, former vice president Mike Pence's daughter Charlotte, married Henry Bond, a 2015 naval academy graduate, at the naval academy chapel. This is a July 19 Ariel photo of the academy. So photos like this you can use to track how the academy has grown and evolved over the decades and its historical significance.

this is a 1935 map of the academy. And then this is the hall, the engineering complex in January of 1982.

and this is a bust of Admiral Chester Nimitz photographed in 1980.

many people may not realize the Navy has also been involved in a number of different exploring expeditions in U.S. history, and these often included explorations of the Arctic region. So this has the papers of an individual named Jess Jesse De Haven. 1850, and the journals and various Navy files. And a photograph. So here is a letter he sent back to the Navy, and talking about the British government is trying to find Franklin expedition, which had gone missing in the Arctic. It was only actually the remnants of the ship were discovered in the bottom of the Arctic ocean just a few years ago by the Canadian Qilut of the National Park Service and that area is now a Canadian -- I think national marine historic park. This is a letter De Haven sent to the Navy department on October 7, 1851.

you can also find class yearbooks and photograph albums. This is an 1866 class photograph of an individual named Ackley was attending during the civil war period.

and a student period call up to 1970. And this is a 1901 issue. You can see who the editors are. And then you can also see who some of the assistants were, the faculty. The head of the mathematics department is or was.

and then they'll have various midshipmen, including pictures of them on the left and then baby photos on the right. And brief descriptions of them, and maybe quotes from famous people they think apply to the individual personalities. And this was a cadet's room from 1901. So fairly austere in its finishings. Lots of books are available there. And then there's also a naval academy museum which has all kinds of treasures of the U.S. international naval history.

this is a where British AI admiral badge, and they did what they were supposed to do, and they were gifts to various admirals. And so this tells about some of the different things that are in the museum. Ship models, paintings, prints, flags, uniforms, various weapons and other literature.

and also paper and documentation and objects related to some of the most iconic figures in the U.S. Navy. John Paul Jones and many others. And this is an up close look at the head on a British warship from 1719. More than 1,200 paintings and sculpture. So there is a description of some of these works in the collections. And the naval ship battles and portrait. So they have a section here about the magic of lanterns, and these were panes of glass with hand painted or photographerric image on it and they were put into a prosqueak for called the magic lantern and the light was projected through the slide and on the front of the projector and it produced a large image.

one of these lanterns from Elijah Cain. He commanded some Artic exploration expeditions in the 1850s, and so this is one of them. You see the ship is stuck in ice, and you can see various individuals out on the ice back trying to figure out what to do. And here is another view, the expedition members trying to work together on a long march. It looks like there is some sort of a gap in the ice right there. And they're trying to it looks like pull a sled across the crevice. This is a bird's eye view of Annapolis, Maryland in 1864. So you can see a number of ships present, and then this -- I thought it was a really interesting picture. This is of the U.S.S. in 1846. The U.S. -- it was a perry expedition that the U.S. had finally gained the chance to trade -- permission to trade with Japan, particularly interesting feature about this is all of these Japanese ships or boats blocking the attempts of the two U.S. naval vessels to enter Japan's bay of ito.

and then this is a picture from the battle of Ma nilla as part of the Spanish-American war, from Spain.

and so the detailed descriptions of what kinds of materials you can find on various sections of the museum. So this is talking about the first and the kind of historical overview of the naval academy, and the U.S. Navy. So here is a masked television monitor of pearl harbor in Hawaii at the time of the attack by Japan on the December 7, 1941. You can see the locations of various ships.

this is an example -- this is one of the displays. This is probably a 19th century ship, and you can see various mannequins, I guess you would call them that, of individuals ton ship, as well as an example one of the ship's models in the background. Here are some more examples of a different ship model, and you can also see some other nautical material in this display case.

a nice feature you can find ton naval academy's website are these podcasts, and these are interviews you can listen to with various historians and other experts on a variety of naval topics from ancient history to the present.

about a month ago they had a podcast, I'm not sure how long it is, on the marine corps on the contested shores, the evolving world of amphibious operations in the history of warfare. And that is up here.

and then presenters, one of the book's co-authors. And though they have a link to where you can find that book on the marine corps university website.

another web cast they had in December was academy culture, the culture of the U.S. naval academy. And this is talking about graffiti at various sites on the naval academy that a midshipman conducted under a professor's cultural anthropology class.

and then there are also lectures on different topics. And there is a series that date from 2013 to 2014 up to more recently. And this is a professor presenting a lecture called the evolution of America's sea strategy.

and then in December of '18, a Dr. Virginia Smith, and I'm not sure if she was at the academy or somewhere else presented a lecture, the 1918 influenza epidemic of the United States naval academy. So, again, this is 46 minutes long, so you can watch and listen to this.

many people know the naval academy participates in a variety of intercollegiate and club sports. The football team participates in the American athletic conference. They play the iconic game with army, and they also compete with the military academy and the Air Force academy for the commander in chief's trophy.

during 2019 their able to team beat Kansas state in the auto zone liberty bowl. And Roger Staubach won Heisman trophies in the early 1960s, anding with that you're significant football fans, Staubach later went on after his naval career went on to be a prominent quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys in the national football league.

the men's and women's basketball league play in the patriot league. They made I think the men's team made 11 NCAA tournament appearances. 1998 being the most recent. In 1986 when David Robinson was on their team, they made it as far as the elite eight in the men's NCAA tournament before losing to duke.

there are lots of different resources you can find additional information ton naval academy. This is just one example of an illustrated history published in 1995.

and there are a lot of benefits, I think you can gain by using the naval Ahmad yea information resources. Learning how to apply to the U.S. naval academy and more information on whether they could be appointed to the naval academy. Enhanced understanding of the history call significance of this institution in American life and culture. The institution's current educational and research activity. Hopefully gaining an enhanced understanding and appreciation of individual attendees and graduates, learning about the experiences of relatives and friends attending here. I think this will be particularly of value if you want to do genealogical research on somebody in your family who attended the academy.

understanding the potential environment and surroundings. The naval academy is not in the middle of Kansas. It is right on the shores of the Chesapeake bay. And also learning how naval academy individuals debate on issues affecting naval and maritime aspects of national security policy.

and so with that I'm ready for your questions.

any questions for Bert? Another great webinar.

I had a couple, Bert, if --

yeah.

while waiting for others to chime in. Oh, here we go. Here is Bruce. He has a question. And he says how do naval academy core courses met cadets, midshipmen and our campuses and our ROTC program ?

I don't know. You would probably have to contact like academic advising at the naval academy or your own campuses, naval ROTC. And you would want them to be somewhat compatible.

thank you.

I had a -- you may or may not know this. Some thoughts came to my head. Roughly what percentage -- did you ever learn how many stay in the military after they graduate? I mean they do their term of service?

I don't know.

okay.

I would just be curious about that.

I would imagine a significant percentage would, but that is just -- I mean, they really got acclimated into the Navy way of doing things. And they may want to advance their naval career as far as they can. There may be some who have said I have done my bit and I want to move on to other things.

yeah.

and thank you. She learned a lot today. And we have time for questions for Bert, so please -- another thing I would be curious about, and you may or may not know this, are people promoted faster than an ROTC graduate or are they fast tracked in some way?

I think you get admitted into the Navy at a higher rank than maybe an ROTC grad would. I know with west point, you get appointed. I think you're commissioned as a second lieutenant.

I wonder in the upper eshlon if it is a big mangle plus in your development.

it could be, but, again, probably depend on what branch of service you're in or what you specialize in.

I was very interested to know it moved to Newport during that period.

yes.

that is something I discovered while prepping this. Snoop

and let's see. Larry makes the -- oh, here we go. -- oh, Ashley put the satisfaction survey into the chat, so please look at that. Ashley, if you could put the links to our archive of webinars so you can see Bert's previous webinars there.

Aaron says it seems there were many think tanks around the U.S. M. A. Do you know if there are similar organizations like this associated with the naval academy?

that was something I was looking for. I didn't see as many directly affiliated with the naval academy in Maryland, but there are plenty of think tanks that do work on naval issues. Obviously the research center up at the naval war college in Newport, Rhode Island. And later on I hope to do a webinar on the centers of the naval post-graduate school in Monterey, California. And there are some think tanks -- the naval institute that is one organization. There are some think tanks like the center for naval analyses. I don't think they have that much with the naval, but they have more affiliation with the Navy, and they will do research on naval and maritime matters. And that would also be for many countries around the world. I know, for instance, in Australia, the royal Australian Navy has a sea power scanner that they do research on maritime and naval issues of interest in Australia.

very interesting. Larry makes the point naval academy corps is not really replicated in ROTC, for example, convenient history majors have -- old on. I just lost this. Hold on one second. Let me grab this.

you mentioned six.

and electrical engineering.

and thank you.

that is an interesting point. Patricia says can one do genealogical research on people who served in the Navy in World War II? Which data base should one use?

you might be able to find -- if they went to the naval academy, you might be able to find some stuff on them there from the naval academy collection. I'd recommend checking the naval history and heritage command's website. That is the history branch of the U.S. Navy to see what you might be able to find there.

that is a good group. They gave a presentation for us in a conference last year, the year before.

and I'll also mention many military service branches have organizations -- they are usually formed by members like me, particular units or squadrons that may hold reunions or get-togethers for various purposes and might document. That would be another angle you could look at.

great. Emily makes the comment this is a great presentation. I hope you please offer similar webinars on army and Air Force. Yes, Bert is our man! He has presented on all types of military and he will present more, so look for those.

yes.

the Air Force -- I next want to do one on the Air Force academy. I don't know if that will be in April or not, but we'll see.

yeah.

but I previously have done webinars on all of the military branch war colleges, such as like the army war college, naval war college, you can find them in the academy archives.

and which Ashley just put the link in there, so please give that a look. It is easy to search and you can find Bert's just about maybe -- not all, but probably all of his past 15 or 20 webinars, however many it is right now. They're all great.

and I'm also hoping to do presentations on the coast guard academy and the merchant marine academy.

Larry says all graduates are the same ranks as ROTC graduates, joining Navy and marines are the same level as naval academy.

that is interesting.

that is interesting.

I'm sure someone has tracked them over the years to see how that works out. And he also makes the point of no think tanks at the naval academy.

I didn't see -- there was the scholars programs. I think educational institutions can choose what kinds of research they want to sponsor. I may have missed something, but I tried giving a fairly fine tooth comb approach to research activity at the acad naval academy archives maintains the records of the midshipmen portion of their career of naval officer whose attended the naval academy. Privacy restrictions apply.

yeah, that is true. Samuel says -- oh, he just repeated that then.

yeah.

oh, maintains -- maintains the conduct in the portion of the career of naval officers. Okay. Any other questions for Bert? This is another terrific webinar. More to come.

oh, space force. Are you going to do a webinar on space force. I don't know how much you can say so far. [Event concluded]