

enemy, smashed the dreams of tyrants, and generally prepared a comfortable landing zone for the spoiled and pampered pets of Uncle Sam, otherwise known as McArthur's Kids, the U.S. Army.

It does not come in many colors, nor do sailors squabble over who gets to wear which color. It is white, the color of purity and integrity. It is rounded and peaked, suggesting the deep swells and troubled oceans over which the Navy is frequently called to extend order. This hat may only be worn in a manner which befits the pride and tradition it embodies, and may never be worn in a fashion that brings shame or discredit upon either the hat itself, or long line of sailors that it represents.

#### *Terms and Conditions:*

The bet was that if the United States Naval Academy was victorious in helping the United States Military Academy preserve their "perfect" 2003 schedule (that is, by thumping some WooPoo a\*\* in the annual Army-Navy Classic), then Mr. Ron Squires, formerly of the Benedict Arnold Memorial Boys Finishing School on the Hudson (a.k.a. USMA), would wear a dixie cup in the office for a week. The terms of this agreement are defined as follows:

The term "office" encompasses all office and administrative space contained within the security zone leased and operated by Advanced Information Engineering Services (formerly Veridian) in Crystal Gateway 4, to wit: all of Suite 900 including offices, conference rooms, kitchen/break rooms, hallways, and foyers.

The term "dixie cup" is defined as the hat, appropriately labeled "Army-Navy 2003 34-6 Navy," which you find herein. The term "one week" is defined as a minimum of five (5) working days. The term "wear" is defined as (1) on your head; (2) properly worn on the crown of the head, with the forward lower brim two-fingers-width above your brow; (3) in all office spaces as defined above; (4) when either alone or with others, including in all meetings and conferences (with the exception of official meetings with new clients or official interviews).

You must be observed by at least one active duty or retired naval officer on each of the five (5) working days to be properly wearing the cap. One (1) of the five (5) working days must be a day in which your business partner, Mr. Dave Aland, formerly of the Glorious Men's Academy of Excellence (a.k.a. USNA) is in the office and can witness your satisfaction of the bet.

I'm sure that Dave's already planning his bet with Ron for this year's game! And now if that weren't enough news from Dave, here's another little tidbit that arrived from him a few weeks later (thanks, Dave, for supporting the whole column this month!).

In January 2004, Dave received a letter from a gentleman in New York State who was once the managing editor of a Baltimore, MD, TV station. One of his reporters, who was returning from the Naval Academy graduation in 1977, tossed him a Midshipman's combo cap as a souvenir, and he kept the hat for the last 26 years. This winter he searched the Internet for the name on the calling card in the hat, and sent Dave a letter asking if I would like his hat returned (yes, it was the hat that Dave threw into the air 26 years ago at graduation!). The gentleman even declined the "reward" that was offered

on the reverse side of Dave's calling card; namely, "The holder of this cap is entitled to one free dinner at Buzzy's when accompanied by a whistle-boom."

When Rick White heard Dave's story, he related the fact that when ARKANSAS (CGN-41) was commissioned in 1980, the wife of the assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RDA) presented Rick with the hat that he threw at graduation during the commissioning reception. Now at least two Classmates have recovered their combo caps from graduation! It's really a small world sometimes.

#### **Closing Remarks**

I want to thank Dave Aland once again for his contributions this month and let everyone else know that they can rent this column for a specific month and have me write stories about them alone. The rental fee is very modest (a large package of diapers, size three) and I'm even willing to negotiate under certain conditions. If you care to have next month's column dedicated to you, simply send me your story via email and ship the diapers to my home address above. I'll be waiting by my mail box, and I hope you have a great month in the meantime. Go Navy!

—**Bob Sanderson**

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**Annual Membership: 3%**  
**Life Membership: 75%**

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Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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# 79

**Annual Membership: 0%**  
**Life Membership: 89%**

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Greetings, '79!

Think back to your days as a Midshipman. Yeah, I know, those days are getting further and further in the past. But think back for a second. Do you ever remember April?

February had snow/ice storms and 100th night. March had St. Patrick's Day and '79 night (somewhere in there was *the* food fight, which wiped out the Wardroom from top to bottom!). May brought out the best weather, short sleeve uniforms, finals, Dead Week, and for us, graduation. But aside from a day or two off at Easter, do you remember anything about April? I'm sure I'm missing something incredibly obvious. If I am, please drop me a note and tell me what it is. I feel so foolish...

Well, to the business at hand. There's a lot of stuff to cover, so let's get going. It is my privilege this month to start off with the following email from our Class President, **Sean Cate**:

Greetings '79ers! It is my distinct pleasure to pass along the great news that our Classmate, **Jeff Lemmons**, has been selected by the FY-05 Flag Board for promotion to rear admiral (lower half). Jeff is currently serving as the deputy for mission effectiveness, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Southeast, Jacksonville, FL—when he's not doing his day job.

Jeff—on behalf of the entire Class, Congratulations! Keep us posted on the wetting down! Omnes Viri '79.

Jeff, please let me add my congratulations to this special announcement. It's great to see that '79 continues to be so ably represented in the flag ranks. And like Sean, I, too, am looking forward to the wetting down.

From the flag ranks to the front lines: not only is '79 well represented in the realm of the stars, but we also have Classmates actively involved on site in the War Against Terror. **Mike Van Horn Third Co.** (Michael.VanHorn@isg.mil) took time out from his assignment in Baghdad to send the following email:

I am currently serving in Baghdad for six-months with the Iraq Survey Group. I can honestly say that, despite what you have read in the papers, the ISG is nowhere near being 85% complete with its work. Life here is pretty good right now and I am probably in the safest place in Baghdad. Nestled between Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) and CJTF-7 Headquarters, the bad-guys have little interest in shooting at my tiny camp...although this hasn't always been the case. I arrived here during Ramadan in early November; during the first two months of my tour in Iraq there was a great deal of shooting and explosions going on nearby...not all of it friendly. On 7 January, a 60mm mortar round exploded 32-feet away from my trailer—which I occupied at the time...pretty keen! On day two in Iraq, I got to see and hear an AC-130 gunship go into action, laying waste to a nearby bad-guy firing position with 105mm cannon fire.

Over the next few weeks the Army went in and "cleaned up" the surrounding neighborhoods that had been causing some difficulties for us. After watching our sister services in action up close, I'll never say anything bad about the Air Force or Army again. If I ever run into anyone from the first armored or first cavalry Divisions (the young soldiers who keep us safe in the Baghdad area), the drinks are on me! Believe me, after I get back home in May, "I'm going to Disney World!"

In civilian life I am an intelligence planner assigned to the Joint Staff Directorate for Operations (J3). I am a captain in the Reserve and I am assigned as a SELRES with the Joint Staff Directorate for Intelligence (J2). I have a great Reserve job, for almost four years I have served as the Joint Staff Deputy Director for Intelligence (DDI), the senior intelligence watch officer in the National Military Command Center. Before that, I was recalled to active duty during the Balkans crisis and served in the Pentagon as commander of the Joint Staff J2 Balkans Intelligence Task Force.

On the home front, I have been married for over 14 years to Lori (an Air Force veteran and