

# USMMA COLORADO PARENTS ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter

Spring 2014

### Report from NMMI New Mexico Military Institute

Dianne has been in contact with our NMMI student Kyle Dietz and received permission to publish his status report in our newsletter.

Hi Dianne,

Sorry to get back to you late, we have just been swamped here lately. Things are going good with the preps here. The last of us "turned" to cadet privates down here. Turning is similar to a plebe class being recognized at USMMA. We essentially got our freedoms back a little, we can now leave campus at anytime on weekends as long as we are back by 5PM and we also don't have to square our corners anymore.

All of the Colorado Preps are doing good so far, our contract with USMMA states that we need a 2.2 cumulative GPA when we leave here and I truly believe that we will all make it for sure. Our challenge at this point is to get a GPA of about a 3.0 at midterms. If we make it then we will be eligible for an early letter of assurance from USMMA. This means that we can start the process of applying for our TWIC cards early and also it is somewhat of a mental reassurance for us. If we don't make the 3.0 GPA at midterms, then we have to keep above a 2.2 GPA by the end of the semester. Generally, anyone who has above a 2.2 will make it to KP.

From what I have been told by some, this is the best preparatory class to go through NMMI so far GPA wise. I think that we also have the highest number of preps that have remained in the program so far out of any prior group. I believe that right now we have 36 out of the original 40 USMMA preps who started here. The major obstacle for us at this point in time is to keep our heads in the game.....This place feels so far away both geographically and academically from USMMA. In reality though, we will be out of here in a little over 3 months, our day at USMMA will be here sooner than we all think.

If you have any questions about NMMI or the prep program I would be happy to answer them.

Thanks for all you do with the Parents Association!

Kyle

P.S.

I bet some of the members on the parent's association may have been wondering why in the world the "142" flags were being shipped to NMMI all of a sudden in September of last year...I got some of the other preps hooked on the idea when I posted a pic of mine hanging up in the room (a picture is attached to this message). I gotta say if anything is getting me through this school it is this flag, it's the last thing I see when I go to bed and the first thing I see in the morning. Can't wait to get there!

Kyle's room at NMMI



Letter from KYLE J. DIETZ, C/2nd Lt. CAP, Colorado Prep. Student at the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) in Roswell, New Mexico. Published with permission.

## USMMA Commandant Captain Kennedy's visit to Colorado



USMMA Colorado Parents Association board dinner with Commandant Kennedy, February 2014.

Captain Kennedy speaks at USMMA Colorado Parent Association February Meeting.

At our February 22, 2014 general membership meeting we had the honor of hosting USMMA Commandant, Captain Jay Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy (Cathy).

The weekend started with the USMMA executive board meeting for a Friday night dinner with Captain Kennedy and his wife. It was truly a pleasure getting to know them on a personal level.

The following day, they attended our meeting which included an amazing potluck lunch and business meeting. The last two hours were left for the Commandant to speak to the audience. Our audience included current USMMA parents, USMMA alumni & friends, current NMMI parents, recruited students and Civil Air Patrol students. In all we had 62 people in attendance. A great turnout for our landlocked state.

Captain Kennedy spoke to approximately 18 questions that had been pre-submitted to him, incorporating the current status and direction of USMMA. He explained that he basically manages the regiment by walking around and interacting with the midshipmen/plebes.

Current enrollment at the academy is 952 (2014-236, 2015-232, 2016-249, 2017-229) (I know those #'s don't add up, but that's what he reported). The class of 2018 will be 250 + setbacks + 5-10 international students

There are 253 midshipmen currently at sea

Curriculum is being rewritten to incorporate new standards and licensing requirements

Explanation of "class" restrictions:

Class 1 is a "felony" by school standards

Class 2 is a "misdemeanor" by school standards

Class 3 is "like jay walking" by school standards

How he is dealing with alcohol issues:

Kids get in trouble in groups

Before his time, lack of consistency in follow up

There are 4 places in Great Neck that don't ID.

He continues to follow up with these venues. One of them is Great Neck Liquor

Stepping up random checks and security

Facilities:

Security of barracks. Beginning 3-3-14 an ID card will be required to access all barrack buildings

Delano is in the final stages of improvement.

Scheduled to be completed in April

Cleveland Hall is almost completed. That will provide 160 more beds

Mallory Pier-on/ahead of schedule. Scheduled for completion end of March

Zero Deck-to be renovated. Will allow for more storage and additional gym space. Scheduled 1 1/2 years from now

Samuels-renovation to begin in 2015

Air Conditioning/Heat-a new company will be evaluating all barracks and repairing as needed

Regarding the subject of "hazing"-it will be more controlled and adjustments are being made

Physical Fitness-"yes" many incoming candidates are coming in out of shape. Many "lied" on their physical application. This issue is being addressed

Current areas of interest

Continued sexual assault prevention and training

The new Kings Pointer should be back to campus by April

An outside company is donating a tug boat to USMMA

There is not enough “white space” in the midshipmen’s schedule/academic calendar, leaving not an ideal amount of time for studies and “free time”. Commandant is working with Dean to change that

A structured program for leadership development is needed

Honor...changing the mindset of making unwise decisions

Physical Fitness...need to be in shape

Sea Projects

Standards are tightening

12 honor code cases currently related to sea projects; many due to ponys. 4 were found not guilty, 4 set back, remainder outstanding cases

Delano has a new food contractor in place

Morale. There is \$260,000 in morale funds available. Looking into reinstalling and spending available funds on morale.

Future of USMMA

We have strong alumni

Maritime admin and KP remaining friendly with one another

We have friends in Congress

Keep pace with industry standard and changes

USMMAF and admin relations

“Getting better”

Lerner House. Looking into “gifting back” to the academy and then USMMAF “renting” back from academy

Change in acceptance day date

The idea was Captain Kennedy’s

“it’s about the kids, it’s about the program”

Acceptance Day will become more standardized...two weeks after regiment reforms.

There is no training value in changing the date every year based on a home football game.

There is value in parents being with their plebe shortly after indoc ends. Many plebes think about leaving and parents presence may help them change their mind

Focus is on the development of the plebes and leadership training for the upper classmen

Acceptance day date is August 9, 2014

Parents Weekend September 19-21, 2014

Indoc, class of 2018, July 2

Class of 2015 B and EMT’s working indoc will be able to leave after their last final, to report June 28

All other students may leave after completion of graduation, June 21

Subject to change.

It truly was a pleasure having Captain and Mrs. Kennedy in our presence. We thank them for taking the time to be with us. To top it off, we had beautiful weather for their visit.

Dianne Iannone



General Membership meeting with Commandant Kennedy and his wife, Cathy

## Report from Colorado All Service Academy Ball (CASAB) 2013

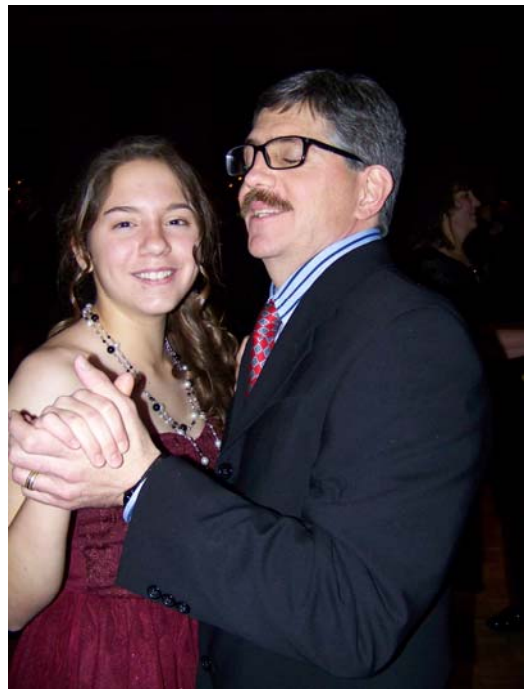


The 2013 Colorado All Service Academy Ball was a huge success. USMMA had a total attendance of 71 people, including 12 midshipmen and plebes. General attendance went from 320 (at 2012's Ball) to 464 for the 2013 Ball. One of the greatest highlights of the evening was the guest speaker, Gen. (Ret.) Stephen Lorenz. Gen. Lorenz inspired, encouraged, and challenged every cadet and midshipmen in attendance to be the great leader they were called to be. The feedback from those attending was all positive.



CASAB 2014 will be held Saturday, December 27 at the beautiful Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. If you are interested in serving on the CASAB committee please let Dianne know. The committee meets once a month, on a Sunday afternoon. We are especially looking for class of 2016 and 2017 parents as several of our current committee members "graduate" from USMMA this June. USMMA will be co-hosting in 2017 so it would be helpful to work with the committee in advance. It's a great way to meet and network with other parents from other academies.

Dianne Iannone



One last CASAB picture of our fearless departing leaders enjoying their last CASAB ball—thank you to Chris and Kirk Skogen.



## CASAB 2014 and beyond

The CASAB 2014 committee is up and running. We have had our kick off meeting and are full speed ahead. We are still looking for anyone considering volunteering on this year's committee. We especially could use parents from class of 2017 as USMMA co-chairs with USCGA in 2016 and it would be helpful to have knowledge and experience going into ball planning that year. If you are interested in being on the committee or want more information, please let Dianne know.

Also, we are looking for midshipmen to participate at CASAB 2014. It's not too early to start signing up! Please ask your plebe/midshipman if he/she would consider participating. There is training the day of the ball, so no experience necessary. Participation includes Color Guard, reading a one line toast, POW/MIA Presentation and Cake Cutting. Please let Dianne know if your midshipman would be interested.

[dianne@iannone.info](mailto:dianne@iannone.info)

## Cookie Café

### Alert Alert Alert Alert Alert

We have a **New Date** for our Cookie Café commitment, **April 24**. Please note there is also **New Labels** to be printed out in order to make sure *our* cookies are used on *our* day.

In case you can not lay your hands on one of the numerous emails that Ann has sent out regarding our Cookie Café commitment, you may contact her at on email at [arice10152@gmail.com](mailto:arice10152@gmail.com) to get a pdf document of a shipping label that can be entirely filled out on your computer.

If you click on the date line on the shipping label, the April 24 date magically appears. If you use the old labels you must manually delete the April 10 date that appear on those. This is important! We would surely like to have Colorado Cookies served on the Colorado Sponsored Day in order to get proper credit after all that baking!!

## Colorado Academy Information Day April 26, 2014

This is the most noble of student recruiting events, when the Merchant Marine Academy shines above all others, thanks to the efforts of Colonel Dick Sargent USMCR (Ret.) and Robert Miller, our Recruitment Chair. Please consider helping with set-up, clean-up and generally manning our information table. Sign up via the sign-up genius:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/  
go/20F054CAA722A13-20141/8970418](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054CAA722A13-20141/8970418)

The event is taking place at Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora, CO 80011 (Between E. Colfax and E. 6th Ave), Saturday, April 26 from 1300-1600.

We are very lucky that Colonel Sargent has agreed to speak on behalf of the Merchant Marine Academy, as he has for many years prior.

Watch for email or contact Robert Miller for information on this event:

[cousmma@comcast.net](mailto:cousmma@comcast.net)

## Planning for Parents Weekend

It is not too soon to start planning for Parents Weekend, September 19-21, 2014. Most of us have made the trip several times and are starting to know our way around. Let's share information on hotels, restaurants and travel arrangements. Please write a mini review or just simply a list of where to stay and what to do when visiting the USMMA. I will publish it in the next newsletter scheduled for June 1st.

## Our Facebook page

Please send pictures to our facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/USMMAColorado?fref=ts>

## Useful Links

Colorado Parent Association Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/USMMAColorado?fref=ts>

Colorado Parent Association Web Page:  
<http://www.usmmaparents.com>

2013 Colorado All Service Academy Ball:  
<http://www.coloradoasab.org/>

Kings Point Cookie Café:  
<http://kpcookiecafe.com/>

Long Island Railway/Bus reloadable card:  
<https://www.easypaymetrocard.com/vector/static/accounts/index.shtml>

Flight tracker:  
<http://flightaware.com>

Ship tracker:  
<http://www.marinetraffic.com>

Please submit useful links

## Odds and Ends

**Birthday Cake** for your plebe or midshipman can be ordered from Crystal Enterprises, at 516-773-0081. Ask for Mia. Cakes will be delivered at lunch on the day that you specify.

**Mentors:** Looking for parents of midshipmen who have completed 1<sup>st</sup> sailing or 2<sup>nd</sup> sailing to mentor parents of the midshipmen who are just preparing for their 1<sup>st</sup> sailing. If interested in being a mentor or want a mentor, please contact Dianne at [dianne@iannone.info](mailto:dianne@iannone.info)

**Association Membership:** If you are a parent of a plebe or midshipman, please consider a membership in the Parents' Association. Currently only about half of the parents are members. Membership is \$40 for Plebe parents, \$65 for parents of Midshipmen and \$10 for anyone who wants to become an associate member for the purpose of staying in touch with email updates, newsletters or just simply supporting the work that the organization does on a daily basis. Parents are not eligible for Associate membership. Please visit our web site at

<http://www.usmmaparents.com>  
 for easy, secure and convenient payment of dues. Only members current on dues are eligible to vote at general membership meetings.

Renewal of **Colorado Drivers Licenses** when your midshipman is not in Colorado. Visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251770680113&ssbinary=true> to print out the required one page form, DR 2989, from the State of Colorado, Department of Motor Vehicles. It takes 20 working days to process the form, so allow plenty of time. There is no fee required for Military applicants, but a letter from the Commanding Officer stating why you are unable to take care of this in Colorado is required.

**Soliciting for pictures and tales:** Please contribute to our Newsletter and a Thank You to all of you who sent input for this issue (Dianne!!). We are always in need of stories and pictures, tales from Sea Year, even everyday accounts of life at the Academy. Please engage your plebes and midshipmen to send pictures and write-ups as well. It doesn't take much and means a whole lot to the rest of us to be part of your lives.

Send to: [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)  
 Questions, submissions, comments to [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

## Important Dates 2014

DATES	EVENTS	LOCATIONS
<b>March</b>		
7	Second Term Ends	
10 to 13	Second Term Finals	
13	<b>2016(B)</b> Sea Duty starts	
13 to 16	Spring Leave	
about 16th	<b>2016(A)</b> Sea Duty ends	
17	<b>2016(A)</b> turn in Sea Project	
	Third term registration	
18	Third Term begins	
<b>April</b>		
7	<b>2014</b> Battle Standard Dinner	
9	Shipping Out Fair	
14	<b>2018</b> Appointees open house	
21	Uniform change	
<b>24</b>	<b>Colorado parents Cookie Café</b>	
<b>26</b>	<b>Colorado Academy Information Day</b>	Hinkley High School, Aurora, CO
<b>May</b>		
16	<b>2014</b> Third term ends	
19 to 23	<b>2014</b> Final exams	
26	Memorial day holiday parade	
27	<b>2014</b> License Preparation begins	
<b>June</b>		
2 to 7	<b>2014</b> USCG License exams	
9	<b>2014</b> License retakes	
13	<b>2015(B), 2016(A), 2017</b> Third term ends	
<b>14</b>	<b>Welcome Picnic, Colorado Parents Assoc.meeting</b>	Colorado
14 - 19	<b>2015(B), 2016(A), 2017</b> Third term finals	
18	<b>2014</b> reports back to the Academy	
20	Awards Change of Command	
20 - 22	Kings Point Weekend	
21	<b>2014</b> Commencement	
24	<b>2017(B)</b> report to Sea Duty	
	End of Academic Year	
29-Jul-26	Summer session	
<b>July</b>		
2	<b>2018</b> Indoctrination	
20 !!!	<b>2015, 2016(A), 2017(A)</b> report before 1200	
24 !!!	First term begins	
27	Regiment reports	
29	Classes begin	
<b>August</b>		
8th - 10th	<b>2018</b> Acceptance Day	
<b>September</b>		
19-21	Parents Weekend	



## Board and Chairs 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 School Years

Position	Officer/Chair for 2013-2014	Appointees for 2014-2015	Contact
<b>President</b>	Iannone, Dianne	Iannone, Dianne	<a href="mailto:dianne@iannone.info">dianne@iannone.info</a> <a href="tel:714.309.9022">714.309.9022 (cell)</a> <a href="tel:303.663.0763">303.663.0763 (home)</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Skogen, Kirk	Hill, John	<a href="mailto:riptidems@gmail.com">riptidems@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Havanar, Glant	Havanar, Glant	<a href="mailto:realtormomrocks@gmail.com">realtormomrocks@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Watson, Deb	Watson, Deb	<a href="mailto:debwatsoncpa@qwestoffice.net">debwatsoncpa@qwestoffice.net</a>
<b>Alumni</b>			
<b>Chapter President</b>	Truett, Ed	Truett, Ed	
<b>Birthday Cards</b>	Ensz, Lisa Ensz, Courtney	McMahan, Joanne	
<b>Boodle Bags</b>	Price, Karen	Price, Karen	
<b>CASAB (Ball)</b>	Skogen, Chris	Watson, Deb	<a href="mailto:debwatsoncpa@qwestoffice.net">debwatsoncpa@qwestoffice.net</a>
<b>Cookie Café</b>	Rice, Ann	Ormond, Dede	
<b>Facebook</b>	Bixler, Steve	Bixler, Steve	
<b>Fundraising</b>		<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>Graduation</b>	Skogen, Kirk	Price, John	<a href="mailto:kskogen@auroragov.org">kskogen@auroragov.org</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Hill, Kristin	Hill, Kristin	<a href="mailto:kehill55@gmail.com">kehill55@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nomination</b>		<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>Recruitment</b>	Miller, Robert	Miller, Robert	<a href="mailto:cousmma@comcast.net">cousmma@comcast.net</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Miller, Regina	Miller, Regina	<a href="mailto:cousmma@comcast.net">cousmma@comcast.net</a>

Two positions remain unfilled for the 2014-2015 Academic Year: **Nomination** and **Fundraising**. Please see if you can spare the time to contribute to the Association. Contact Association President, Dianne Iannone for details.

We are also looking for two people to “train”, beginning July 1, for the 2014-2015 school year for the **Boodle Bag** and **Treasurer** positions. The two moms that are currently boodle bag chair and treasurer, have volunteered to continue next year. They both will “graduate” in 2015. Please let me know if you are interested in training beginning July 1 and then becoming the chair July 1, 2015. 2017 parents...you’ll be around a few more years. Would you consider?  
dianne@iannone.info

## USMMA Students, Colorado

	Company	Major	Split	Other Sports	Leadership positions
<b>Class of 2014</b>					
Cannon, Casey	1st		A		
Dodge, Donald	Band	Engine	B		
Hodges, Kelly	2nd		A	Volleyball	Captain of Volleyball team
Maloney, Christopher	2nd		A		
Morrow, Marie	1st		A		
Nowacki, Krzysztof	3rd	Deck	A		
Skogen, Nicholas	2nd	Engine	B	EMT	RES CO
<b>Class of 2015</b>					
Bixler, Justin	4th		B		
Cowden, Weston	1st	Engine	A		
Harvey, Lynae	Band		B		
Heimbrock, Adam	3rd		A		
Lucero, Christopher	4th		A		
Miller, Alexander	4th		B		
Ormond, Diana	3rd		A		
Pike, Jonathan	2nd		A		
Price, Elliott	4th	Deck	A		
Queen, Paige	Band		A		
Rice, Patrick	1st		A		
Silva, Kiel	2nd	Engine	A		
Walter, Cassandra	2nd	Deck	A	Color Guard/Volleyball	
Watson, Bernard	2nd	Engine	B	Wrestling	
Wehking, Shawn	2nd		A		
<b>Class of 2016</b>					
Guettlein, Jeremy	1st	Engine	B	Hockey	
Hill, Thomas	2nd	Engine	A	EMT Cross Country	EMS RES Ex PO
Iannone, Weston	3rd	Deck	A	EMT Color Guard/Waterfront	RES CO PO, CC PO, SEAL/EOD Club co-president
Kirk, John	1st	Engine	A		
McMahan, Kevin	1st	Engine	B		
Robbins, Nathan	4th	Engine	A	Football	
Sawicki, Gus	2nd	Engine	B	LaCrosse	
Smith, Rachel	1st	Engine	B	Volleyball/ LaCrosse	
Valdiconza, Luke	3rd	Engine	A	EMT	
<b>Class of 2017</b>					
Blauw, Spencer	3rd				
Finnin, Emily	3rd			LaCrosse	
Garcia-Lance, Danielle	1st				
Havenar, Michael	1st			Swimming	
Martinovic, Marjan	Band				
Ormond, Patricia	Band				
<b>NMMI Incoming 2018</b>					
Dietz, Kyle					
Macdonald, Douglas					
Richy, Stephen					