

ORGANIZATION OF THE BRIGADE OF MIDSHIPMEN

Below is information on the organization of the Brigade of Midshipmen. During the summer, it is dismissed, and re-forms in the fall. Over the summer, the incoming plebes are organized into a summer regiment.. Both organizations are described here. Typically, the summer regiment mirrors the Brigade structure, with plebes organized into platoons intended to feed specific companies in the Brigade when it re-forms. Semper gumby alert: this is not always the case!

BRIGADE OF MIDSHIPMEN

(Go to this link to see it in a pictogram: <http://www.usna.com/parents/michigan/brigade.pdf>)

The Brigade consists of 2 regiments, each with 3 equally-sized battalions, for a total of 6 battalions (Battalions 1-3 are in 1st Regiment, while Battalions 4-6 are in 2nd Regiment). Each battalion has 5 companies, for a total of 30 companies in the Brigade. They are numbered 1-30 and are assigned to the battalions and regiments in numerical order, just as you'd expect: Companies 1-5 in 1st Battalion, 6-10 in 2nd, and so on. Upper class hold leadership positions at the battalion, regiment, and brigade levels.

The Company is the main administrative unit of the Brigade. Each Company has 4 platoons (nos. 1-4), and each platoon has 3 squads (nos. 1-3). So there are 12 squads in a company. Each squad typically has ~12 midshipmen, of which 1 or 2 are 1st Class (seniors), with 3-4 from each of the other 3 classes. So each company is ~140 strong. Upper class also have leadership positions at the Company, platoon, and squad levels. Each company has a commissioned Company Officer, typically from the Navy or Marines, a senior enlisted adviser (often from the same branch of service), and a midshipman company commander from the 1st Class. Companies board together in Bancroft Hall. An example of a midshipman's unit assignment is: 2nd Regiment, 5th Battalion, 23rd Company, 4th Platoon, 1st Squad (find it in the pictogram!).

PLEBE SUMMER REGIMENT

(Go to this link to see it in a pictogram: <http://www.usna.com/parents/michigan/summer.pdf>)

The summer regiment has 2 summer battalions, Starboard and Port. There are a total of 15 summer companies, lettered A-P (skipping J - don't ask me why). Each summer company has 2 summer platoons, for a total of 30 (one platoon for each Brigade company). The summer platoon numbers ascend with the company letters, so 1st and 2nd platoon are in A Company, 3rd and 4th platoon are in B Company, and so on. In each platoon, there are 4 squads of 10-12 plebes each, for a total of 40-50 plebes per platoon.

Each summer company has a Company Officer and senior enlisted adviser, taken from the Brigade. Typically they are from one of the two Brigade companies the summer company is intended to feed. There are 1st Class and 2nd Class leaders at the company, platoon, and squad level, just as in the Brigade. During plebe summer, the general term for these leaders is "CADRE". An example of a plebe's summer unit assignment is my son, who was in B Company, 3rd Platoon, 4th Squad; and he's now in 3rd Company in the Brigade. (Hint: squads march in order...so in summer photos I knew my son would be in the back.) They board together in the summer in Bancroft Hall and typically move to different rooms, in their Brigade company area, when it re-forms before the academic year. Roommates might change at this time.

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