



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER TRAINING SQUADRON EIGHTEEN
7413 USS ENTERPRISE ST SUITE 102
MILTON, FL 32570-6011

IN REPLY REFER TO
HT-18NOTE 5060
11 Feb 13

HELTRARON EIGHTEEN NOTICE 5060

Subj: HELTRARON EIGHTEEN DINING OUT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 1710.7A
(b) MCO P5060.20
(c) NAVPERS 15665I
(d) MCO P1020.34G

Encl: (1) Sequence of Events
(2) Event Script
(3) Floor Plan

1. Purpose. The purpose of this notice is to set forth the rules, regulations, and code of conduct to be adhered to by officers and guests in attendance at the HT-18 Dining Out and further outlines the responsibilities of key players, order of events, and script for the event. The HT-18 Dining Out will take place at the New World Landing in Pensacola, Florida, beginning at 1830 on the 22nd day of February, 2013.

2. Discussion. A Dining Out is a formal dinner function for members of the HT-18 wardroom, students, and their guests. Formal dinners are rooted in antiquity. From pre-Christian Roman legions, to second century Viking warlords, to King Arthur's knights in the sixth century, feasts to honor military victories and individual and unit achievements have been a custom. The manner in which the officers of HT-18 will carry on this tradition will be set forth in this notice.

3. General Policy. Attendance for all Officers within HT-18 is optional but highly encouraged. Officers are encouraged to bring spouses or dates (but not both) to the event. Spouses of Officers who are currently deployed are invited as well. The evening will be carried out in good fun but also in good taste. The Dining Out is a means by which to honor the unit and its achievements, honor our guests and fallen comrades, and promote good morale and camaraderie within the wardroom. Should an officer be unable to attend, he is expected to personally communicate his regrets to the Commanding Officer or the Executive Officer.

4. HT-18 Specific Policy. Due to the unique nature of the squadron's multi-service composition, the mess will execute Dining Outs in its own unique fashion while keeping with the spirit and intent put forth in references (a) and (b). The mess will endeavor to uphold and maintain the traditions of all of the services represented by its members. However, in order to maintain structure and an appropriate sense of decorum, the mess will adopt a structure that follows the traditions of the President's service (i.e. when the President of the Mess is a Navy Officer, the mess will follow Navy protocol, and when the President is a Marine, the mess will adopt Marine protocol). All squadron officers, regardless of service or status as student or instructor, are considered full members of the mess and shall endeavor to honor and respect the customs and traditions of every service represented by its members.

11 Feb 13

5. Roles and Responsibilities.

a. President of the Mess. The President of the mess will generally be the Commanding Officer. The President is charged with overall responsibility for organization and operation of the dining out. Many of the responsibilities encompassed therein may be delegated to an "Arrangements Officer" who will work closely with the President to ensure the success of the dining out. Duties of the President will include:

- (1) Appoint an Arrangements Officer.
- (2) Choose an appropriate speaker, and other Honored Guests to invite.
- (3) Appoint a Vice President.
- (4) Greet all guests before dinner is served.
- (5) Open and close the mess.
- (6) Provide welcoming remarks and introduce the honored guests.
- (7) Explain the significance of the POW/MIA table.
- (8) Propose the first and last toasts of the evening.
- (9) Note infractions at any time that warrant a trip to the grog bowl or other punishment as you see fit.
- (10) Assess validity of accusations of infractions brought to your attention by other members of the mess.

b. Vice President of the Mess. The Vice President will be appointed by the President and addressed affectionately as "Mr./Madame Vice." The Vice President will serve as the President's principal assistant during the event. The Vice President will sit alone at the back of the dining room, facing the President. It is essential that the Vice President be intimately familiar with the customs and traditions of the mess. The success of the evening hinges largely on the imagination and humor of the Vice. Duties of the Vice President include:

- (1) Open the lounge/cocktail hour at the appointed time.
- (2) Sound the call to dinner at the appropriate time.
- (3) Conduct a grog making ceremony to entertain and instill fear in the mess.
- (4) Prepare appropriate toasts as directed by the President. Composition of appropriate poems or witticisms in good taste relating to personalities and organizations present is encouraged.
- (5) Keep the party moving and stimulate table conversation through keen wit and impromptu speaking ability.

(6) Note and make special mention of the violations of the rules of the mess and breaches of protocol and etiquette.

(7) Be the last person to leave the party.

c. Honored Guests. Honored Guests are typically senior in rank to the President. Honored Guests will be given a place of honor at the head table. Honored Guests will be escorted, as appropriate, during the event and briefed on the customs, courtesies, rules, and procedures of the dining out. Official guests are guests of the mess as a whole, and their expenses will be shared. All members of the mess shall make an effort to meet the Honored Guests during the cocktail hour. Honored Guests shall always be in the company of several members of the mess. If the Commanding Officer is not acting as President of the mess, he will be treated as an Honored Guest.

d. Guest Speaker. Guest Speakers will be treated as Honored Guests. They shall be invited well in advance (normally three to four weeks) and their remarks shall be treated as the highlight of the evening. Arrangements should be made for them as protocol and customs dictate.

e. Arrangements Officer. The Arrangements Officer is responsible to the President for the organization of the dining out. The Arrangements Officer may select two or three minions (collectively known as the Mess Committee) to aid in the planning and execution of the event. The Arrangements Officer will task the Mess Committee as needed to fulfill all reasonable requests of the President. The President may dictate as required, but duties of the Arrangements Officer include:

- (1) Suitable financial planning.
- (2) Choosing appropriate location and menu.
- (3) Ensuring venue is set up with needed equipment and tasteful decorations.
- (4) Printing of programs, invitations, and place cards for event.
- (5) Soliciting entertainment from mess members.
- (6) Other arrangements as appropriate, or inappropriate, as required.

f. Squadron Duty Officer. The Squadron Duty Officer may attend the dinner in order to protect and defend the members of the mess and their guests. He will arrive at the appointed cocktail hour, under arms, and remain through dinner. He will not remain covered while in the dining room. He will refrain from imbibing and will promptly return to his post at the completion of dinner.

6. Dress. Members of the mess shall wear evening dress (USMC) or dinner dress jacket (USN, USCG). O-3 and below, if they do not have evening dress or dinner dress jacket, may wear either dinner dress (USN, USCG) or dress blue "A" (USMC). All uniforms shall be worn in the prescribable manner of

11 Feb 13

references (c) and (d). Military guests of other services shall wear appropriate evening dress equivalent. Retired officers may wear evening dress or appropriate civilian attire with orders and decorations. Spouses and personal guests not in uniform will dress in appropriate evening wear as common sense and good taste dictate.

7. The Gavel. The Gavel will remain in the possession of the President and will be used to signal the members. Three resounding raps require the attention to the President of the members, whether standing or seated. Two raps cause the members to rise, standing in place, and one rap is the signal for the members to take their seats.

8. Guidelines for Polite Conduct.

a. Members of the mess should arrive within 5 minutes of the opening of cocktail hour, and never after the Guest of Honor.

b. All members of the mess should make every effort to personally greet the President and introduce themselves to the Honored Guest before dinner.

c. Do not over-indulge in alcohol.

d. Do not bring cocktails or smoking materials from cocktail hour to the dinner table.

e. Do not forget to ask for permission to excuse yourself (or your guest) from the Mess to "shed a tear for Lord Nelson," if the need presents itself.

f. Remember to keep your glass charged with port during the toasts, both formal and informal. It is considered poor form and bad luck to toast with water, to refuse to participate in toasts (you may always bring the glass to your lips and not drink), or to drink to yourself or your own command.

g. There should be no toasting during dinner. However, drawing attention of the mess to topics of timely interest is encouraged. Always use proper procedures for addressing the mess.

h. Toasts and comments shall be kept within the limits of good taste and mutual respect. Women, politics, and religion are not discussed in the wardroom or mess. Degrading or insulting remarks will be frowned upon by the membership. However, good-natured needling is encouraged.

i. Applause or gaining attention from the mess will be accomplished by rapping a spoon against the table. Do not strike glassware. Follow the example of the President. As guests are introduced, it is correct and invited to applaud each guest as they are introduced and at the conclusion of their remarks.

j. One will fall into disrepute with their peers if the pleats of their cummerbund are not properly faced.

k. One will also be painfully regarded if the clip-on bow tie rides at an obvious list. One will be forgiven, however, if they too ride at a comparable list.

l. Avoid drawing a sword unless in an official capacity, purposefully altering the uniform to present a non-uniform appearance, or other assorted tomfoolery, shenanigans, and hijinks.

m. Tomfoolery, shenanigans, and hijinks are encouraged. Guests without jokes, limericks, and the like will probably be fined.

n. Do not get caught for infractions or you may be fined. Be prepared to answer fines/punishments as given out by the President, whether or not you plan on committing any violations. Change will not be given.

o. Spouses and personal guests of members of the mess should not participate in any hijinks unless they too are prepared to graciously accept the punishments given by the President.

p. Witty rebuttals may alleviate or ameliorate your fines; however, they may also exacerbate or exaggerate your punishment. Tread this road cautiously.

q. Do not hesitate to enthusiastically discharge your punishment. A good spirit and good spirits are the best defense against a distasteful task.

r. Do not leave the party until the President and Guests of Honor have departed.

8. Violations of the Mess.

a. Untimely arrival at proceedings.

b. Failure to present oneself to the President or imbibing/smoking prior to presenting oneself to the President.

c. Hagglng over date of rank.

d. Loud and obtrusive remarks in a foreign language or in English.

e. Improper toasting procedure.

f. Leaving the dining area without permission from the President.
Military protocol overrides all calls of nature.

g. Carrying cocktails into the dining room.

h. Foul language.

i. Being caught with an uncharged glass.

j. Not rising to speak with the President (or Mr. Vice).

k. Rising to applaud particularly witty, succinct, sarcastic or relevant toasts, unless following the example of the President.

l. Commencing a course before the President (or the senior woman at the head table.)

11 Feb 13

- m. Placing a bet or wager.
- n. Telling an off-color or unrefined story.
- o. Discussing issues of a controversial nature.
- p. Opening the hangar doors (shop talk).
- q. Failure to laugh at any joke rendered by an Honored Guest or the President.
- r. Improper attire.
- s. Failure to recognize an inverted cumberbund or wearing a clip-on bowtie at an obvious list.
- t. Behaving in such a manner as to be mistaken for a Marine (or Sailor).
- u. Removing articles of clothing from oneself or others.
- v. Maintaining too low a profile, regardless of its tactical application.
- w. Hagglng over penalties or fines assessed.

9. Infractions. Breaches of etiquette and violations of the mess may be noted at any time by the President, Vice President, or any member of the mess. Members bring infractions to the attention of the President by raising a point of order. Infractions may warrant punishment as dictated by the President. The President may delegate or share this authority, allowing members to become subject to the wrath of the Vice. If the validity of the charge is questioned, members may vote by rapping their spoons on the table; however, members of the mess are reminded to heed paragraph 8(w) of this instruction. The President may require members to drink of the grog, entertain the mess with a limerick or jokes, or both. Additionally, he may direct a member of the mess to perform any other task as he sees fit, or any combination thereof. Members not prepared to answer for their infractions will only earn further punishment. Certain members of the mess seem to be frequent violators, such as Mr. Vice. It is also not uncommon for the President to be charged with at least one violation. If the President must leave his position at the head table, he must appoint another individual to assume his position. Any trip to the grog bowl shall be carried out as following:

- a. Arrive in front of the grog bowl at the position of attention.
- b. Fill a glass with the grog, then about-face to face the mess.
- c. Toast the mess, and drink the grog.
- d. Place the glass upside down upon your head to signify that it is empty.
- e. About-face once more and put the glass back on the table.
- f. Promptly return to your seat. Except for the words "To the Mess!" one is not allowed to speak while carrying out this punishment.

10. Addressing the Mess. Members of the mess may raise a point of order at any time to the Vice President or President as appropriate. During dinner, it is customary to solve issues via the Vice President, so as not to bother the President whilst he is eating.

a. The member will stand at the position of attention and address the Vice President; "Mr. Vice, (Rank & Name) requests permission to address the Mess."

b. The Vice President will address the President: "Mr. President, (Rank & Name) requests permission to address the Mess." (Note: The Vice President has the unconditional option to deny or forward the request.)

c. Should the President grant permission, the member will address the President and state the charge.

d. If the nature of the address is to accuse a member of an infraction, the President has the option of allowing accused to respond to the accusation, consider charges only, or dismiss the accusation and fine the accuser. For a nominal fee paid to the mess, an accused member may request that a "sea-lawyer of repute" respond to the accuser in his stead.

e. When addressing the Mess, do not break the position of attention without permission. This requires the individual to request permission to "speak and move about freely."

f. Members denied permission to address the mess must wait a minimum of five minutes before again requesting permission.

g. The Head Table is not required to request permission and may address the mess directly.

11. Limericks and Ditties. Members are encouraged to address the Vice during dinner and after to bring the attention of the entire mess to any topics of timely interest. This is called presenting a Limerick or Ditty. Limericks, ditties, and any charges are not intended to insult a member, but are presented in good fun and taste. They should be witty to all and elicit a response from the attacked. It is incumbent upon us all to practice this time-honored tradition of chiding or poking good-natured fun at fellow members of the mess. This is a form of self generated fun and entertainment during dinner and serves to enhance camaraderie and command esprit while remembering the formality of the occasion. The Vice will mediate as necessary, and allow members to speak or defend themselves as he/she sees fit. If charges or infractions are noted during dinner, the Vice President will make note of them for later presentation to the President for appropriate punishment. Any other time the President will likely dispense judgment on the spot, as appropriate.

12. Toasting Etiquette.

a. Members of the mess and all guests will rise for the formal toasts. For informal toasts, members of the mess and gentlemen stand, but female guests remain seated to drink the toast unless it is considered a standing ovation. If in doubt, the ladies should take their cue from the members of the head table.

11 Feb 13

b. The President proposes the first and last toasts of the evening.

c. It is neither necessary nor proper to drain the glass at the completion of each toast. A mere touch of the glass to the lips satisfies the ceremonial requirements. Toasting will only be done with port wine and glasses shall always be charged, until the toast, "To the Navy," upon which the port glasses should be entirely drained. The final toast of the night, "To the Corps," will be drunk with the traditional rum punch and will be drained at the completion of the toast.

d. The port wine shall always be passed to the left and shall not leave the table until all glasses at the table have been charged.

e. The Arrangements Officer, in preparing the script for the evening shall take into account the Honored Guests who will be present and write in appropriate toasts as proper customs and courtesies dictate (to heads of state of Allied Nations for example).

f. Formal toasts and appropriate responses will be printed in the program to enlighten the guests.

g. Informal toasts are also an important part of the occasion. They should be humorous, but in good taste. It may be advisable to "plant" some impromptu toasts to set the tone for the evening.

h. Informal toasting may occur any time after the toast to Missing Comrades. Members shall rise and address "Mr. Vice," to present their desire or reasoning for the toast, and end with the words of the toast. Inspired wit and subtle sarcasm are much appreciated. If the President approves, he will motion for the Vice President to second the toast, after which the entire mess will repeat the toast and drink.

i. Toasting to places or things is improper. Thus when proposing a toast to a command, one must be careful to speak of the command as an organization of people rather than as a geographical location or facility. When toasting individuals, it is proper to toast the individual's position, but not to toast them by name.

13. Sequence of Events. A detailed sequence of events and script can be found as enclosures to this document. The script is merely a baseline from which to deviate as the tone of the evening will depend largely on the improvisations of the President and Vice President.


R. S. WHITE

Sequence of Events

A dining out cannot be precisely timed. The below is a guideline for the Vice to help keep the night on track. However, the duration of various portions will rely heavily on the improvisations that take place.

1830 Cocktail Hour

1915 15-Minute Warning ("Dinner Chimes")

1925 Call to Dinner ("Officers' Call")

1930 Arrival of the Head Table ("Semper Fidelis")

1935 Grace and Welcome Remarks

1940 Presentation of the Grog

1945 Parading of the Beef ("Roast Beef of Old England")

1950 Dinner (Charges heard, fines levied)

TBD Ease Springs

2045 Guest Speaker Remarks (Dessert / Coffee)

2105 Passing of the Port

2110 Formal Toasting ("National Anthem")

2115 Open Floor / Entertainment / Informal Toasting

2200 Mess Adjourned / Social Hour

TBD Bar closes

HT-18NOTE 5060
11 Feb 13

The Script

A dining out cannot be fully scripted because much of the evening is based on impromptu accusations and the improvisations of the President and Vice President. The below is a guide for the formal portions of the evening, and mere suggestions for the rest. The script simply documents specific formalities of the mess.

Fifteen minutes prior to dinner, "Dinner Chimes" will be played in the lounge. This will be the last opportunity for a head call prior to dinner. "Officers' Call" followed by appropriate music will signal for all officers not seated at the head table to dispose of their drinks, proceed to the dining area, locate their places, and stand quietly behind their chairs. A diagram for seating will be posted in the cocktail area prior to the call to dinner.

The head table will remain in the cocktail area until the members of the mess have reached the dining room. When the members of the mess have taken their places, "Semper Fidelis" will be played and the President will escort the senior Lady (Honored Guests wife, or CO's wife as appropriate) into the mess. The Honored Guests and next senior lady will follow. Remaining Officers and ladies will fall in behind, in order of seniority. Ladies will be escorted to their appropriate seats, and the Gentlemen will then find and stand behind their seats.

**Admin note: Bread will already be placed on all the tables, and water glasses filled - Members and guests should not eat or drink until the opening formalities conclude and the president starts to eat.*

As soon as the music has stopped, the President will rap the gavel for attention (3 times) and announce:

President: *"Ladies and Gentlemen, the grace."*

The Chaplain or selected mess member will say the grace. Upon its completion, all officers will be seated at the sound of the gavel (one rap).

The President will next give brief welcoming remarks, which will set the tone for the evening and will introduce the members of the head table

Upon completion, the President will make any other remarks he sees fit, and segue into the ridiculousness of the evening.

President: *"Mr. Vice, the Grog!"*

Mr. Vice: *"Aye aye, Sir!"*

The Vice will then make a big show of the grog making ceremony. Unmarked jugs, cans, and other vessels containing the ingredients will be talked about and mixed in front of the mess. The Vice should be as creative here as possible, but the presentation should be relatively quick. There will be two grog containers, one without alcohol.

Enclosure (2)

**During the grog making ceremony, the staff will begin to bring out the salads and pour the dinner wine.*

Upon completion, the President may voice his approval, perhaps sample it, or ask the Vice or some other mess member or honored guest to sample it.

It is then time for the President to call for the beef.

President: *"Mr. Vice, Parade the Beef!"*

Mr. Vice: *"Parade the Beef!"*

The beef will be paraded in from the hall, accompanied by an appropriate member of the mess and appropriate music.

The beef will be paraded around the mess and finally to the President who will cut off a bite to enjoy in front of all.

President: *"I declare this meat fit for consumption! Let dinner be served!"*

Members of the mess and guests will enjoy their salad (after the President or senior lady at the head table begins the course). Shortly after, staff will clear this course and the main course brought out, starting with the head table, then the Vice, then the other tables. Guests need only raise an empty bottle of dinner wine to be brought another.

During this time, members of the mess may address the Vice President with points of order, charges, limericks or ditties. Charges and rebuttals may be heard in full, and the President will pronounce punishments later (unless he chooses to be more timely). There shall be no toasting during dinner.

As dinner winds down, the Vice may suggest a 10-minute recess to "ease springs" which will give everyone the opportunity to move about, or answer nature's call, as needed. This exchange between the Vice and the President can take place however the Vice prepares, or improvises. The President will grant or deny this request as he sees fit.

If granted, members will stand by their places until the head table departs. Guests will leave the dining area as needed and the dinner dishes will be cleared and prepared for desert and coffee service. Mr. Vice will keep close watch on the time, and fine any offenders who return to their seats late. After the break, members should remain standing by their chairs until the head table is seated.

At this time, the President will introduce the Guest speaker and then provide the Guest Speaker the floor in order to bestow ancient and insightful Naval wisdom and experience to the mess.

Following desert and the Guest Speaker's remarks, the tables will be completely cleared and the port wine will be discreetly stocked at all tables. When the mess the tables are cleared and the port in place, the Vice President will report:

HT-18NOTE 5060
11 Feb 13

Vice: *"Mr. President, the wine is ready to pass, Sir."*

The President (or Senior Honored Guest) will begin pouring the port wine to fill his own glass. The senior member at each table will follow his lead, filling their own glass and then passing the port to the left. The port shall never leave the table until the last glass at the table is charged, and each glass shall be charged whether the member plans on drinking it or not. A service person or steward will be available at the left end of the head table, to move the port to the right end so it can continue to be passed.

When all glasses are charged, the President will rise and call for a toast.

IF FOREIGN OFFICERS OR GUESTS ARE PRESENT:

The President will call for a toast to the head of state of the senior foreign guest. After a proper interval (usually about two minutes), he will call for a toast to the head of state of the second senior foreign guest.

President: (standing, two raps) *"I have the honor of proposing a toast to his majesty the King of Saudi Arabia"*

The Vice will second this by rising and addressing the mess:

Vice: (standing) *"Ladies and Gentlemen, a toast to his majesty the King of Saudi Arabia."*

Mess: (all rise) *"The King of Saudi Arabia."*

At an appropriate interval (usually two minutes) the President will stand and propose additional toasts to heads of state of international officers present in order of the officers' seniority until the heads of government of all foreign guests or members have been toasted. The President then turns to the senior foreign guest and calls him/her by name. The senior foreign guest will stand and propose the toast to the President of the United States, which is not seconded (this is called "The Loyal Toast").

President: *"LTJG XXX!"*

LTJG XXX: *"It is my great honor to propose a toast to the President of the United States!"*

Mess Rises to attention; *"National Anthem"* played;

Mess: *"The President of the United States!"* (Raise glasses and drink)

One rap. Mess seated. The President may light the smoking lamp.

IF NO FOREIGN OFFICERS OR GUESTS ARE PRESENT:

If foreign guests or members are not present, the President will call for a toast to the President of the United States as the first toast and then light the smoking lamp.

President: (standing, two raps) *"To the President of the United States."*

Mess Rises to attention; "National Anthem" played;

Mess: "The President of the United States!" (Raise glasses and drink)

Mess seated. The President may light the smoking lamp. Members and guests will be seated with 1 rap of the gavel.

Formal toasts will continue, initiated by preselected members of the crowd and seconded by the Vice.

Member: "Mr. Vice, a toast to the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

Mr. Vice: (standing) "Ladies and Gentlemen, a toast to the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

Mess: (standing) "The Joint Chiefs of Staff."

The order of formal toasts after the President of the United States is as follows:

The Joint Chiefs of Staff
Comrades in Arms and Allied Services
Our Ships at Sea and to Those Deployed

Guest of Honor: (rises) "Fellow warriors, I too have a toast. I would direct your attention to the table where a place has been set for those who have gone before us and those who remain unaccounted for. The military way of life is filled with much symbolism. The table provides a way to tell us that members of our profession, whom we call "brothers", are unable to be with us this evening.

The table is smaller than the others symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against their oppressors.

The white tablecloth represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.

The empty chair depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman, but all who are not here with us.

The table is round to show that our concern for them is never ending.

The Bible represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

The black napkin stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends.

The single red rose reminds us of their families and loved ones; and the red ribbon represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call.

The yellow candle and its yellow ribbon symbolize the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet unaccounted for.

The slices of lemon on the bread plate remind us of their bitter fate.

HT-18NOTE 5060
11 Feb 13

The salt upon the bread plate represents the tears of their families.

The wine glass turned upside down reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities this evening.

Guest of Honor: They dine with us in spirit only. Those who have died so that we may live, our former comrades who have earned the glory and have given to us the respect and pride that we, as service members, hold so dear." ... (inflection pause)... "Fellow warriors and honored guests, let us honor our fellow warriors, who have gone before. Mr. Vice, a toast to all comrades who remain missing or have died for our beloved country."

Mr. Vice: "Warriors, a toast! (all rise) To our missing and fallen comrades."

Mess: "Our missing and fallen comrades!"

All remain at attention while "Taps" is played.

President: "It is also traditional to pay homage to the valor shown and sacrifices made by Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen who have distinguished themselves throughout history."

(A ship's bell is rung one time following each campaign)

CHESAPEKE BAY
BLADENSBURG
TRIPOLI
CHAPULTEPEC
MOBILE BAY
MANILA BAY
GUANTANAMO BAY
MEUSE-ARGONNE
PEARL HARBOR
CORAL SEA
MIDWAY
GUADALCANAL
SAVO ISLAND
THE ATLANTIC
TARAWA
NORMANDY
LEYTE GULF
IWO JIMA
OKINAWA
INCHON
CHOSIN RESERVOIR
KHE SANH
YANKEE STATION
HUE CITY
MEKONG DELTA
LEBANON
GRENADA
PANAMA
KUWAIT
SOMALIA
IRAQ
AFGHANISTAN

Following the Bell Ceremony, the President will open the floor for informal toasts. A few 'planted' toasts might help get things rolling. Members wishing to propose a toast will rise and ask permission to toast from the Vice. Ladies who are not members of the mess, need not rise for informal toasts.

Member: "Mr. Vice, a toast."

Mr. Vice: "Propose your toast, sir"

Member: "Mr. President, a toast to ____."

Mr. Vice: (with approval from the President) "Ladies and Gentlemen, a toast to ____."

Mess: "____" (All members of the mess and gentlemen will rise and repeat the toast, drinking to it or raising the port to their lips.)

If the President does not approve of the toast, he may deny it by simply not motioning for it to be repeated, or he may even charge or punish the member who proposed it. Of course, toasts given in the form of a limerick or other entertaining manner will be given special consideration.

Throughout the time that the floor is open for informal toasts, it is also remains open for any other item that requires the attention of the mess, the President, or Vice President.

When the President feels there have been enough informal toasts or that there are no more to be had, he will rap thrice with the gavel and commence the business of the mess by asking the Vice to read the list of offenders who have violated the customs and traditions of the mess. Any rebuttals that have yet to be heard may be so with permission. The President will assess punishments or fines as necessary.

After the charges and rebuttals, the President will inform the Vice that the head table wishes to be entertained.

The Vice will open the floor to those who wish to provide entertainment. Mess members will offer any skits, movies, songs, or other entertainment they have prepared. It is also customary for the President and Vice to engage in humorous conversation and present awards, gag gifts, and other presents to selected officers. This is done in a humorous manner and the officer being honored replies in the same vein.

When the entertainment has run dry or the head table is no longer entertained, the President will again rap thrice with the gavel. With the attention of the mess, he will give any closing remarks he sees fit, thanking guests and organizers of the event. Upon returning to his seat, he will then call for the final toasts of the evening.

HT-18NOTE 5060
11 Feb 13

Senior Navy: *"Mr. Vice, it is with a great deal of honor and respect that I propose a toast to the United States Coast Guard."*

Before seconding, the Vice will proceed to the head table and fill each glass starting from honored guest and ending with the President. The President will then fill the Vice's glass, who faces the mess and seconds the toast.

Vice: *"Ladies and Gentlemen, the United States Coast Guard!"*

The President will stand while the Vice seconds the toast. The rest of the mess and guests will follow his lead, stand, and repeat the toast in unison.

[Play "Semper Paratus"]

Mess: *"The United States Coast Guard!"*

Senior Marine: *"Mr. Vice, with a great deal of honor and respect that I propose a toast to the United States Navy!"*

Vice: *"Ladies and Gentlemen, the United States Navy!"*

The President will stand while the Vice seconds the toast. The rest of the mess and guests will follow his lead, stand, and repeat the toast in unison.

Mess: *"The United States Navy!"*

(Members should drain their glass of port at this time)

[Play "Anchors Away"]

(All members of the mess take their seats.)

To conclude the formalities of dinner, the President (in the tradition of a Marine Mess) calls for the toast, "To Corps and country." The Marine toast is traditionally drunk with a rum punch. Mr. Vice fills the cups of those seated at the head table, the junior member of each table charging the other glasses at his respective table. The President fills the Mr. Vice's cup who then faces about and seconds the toast.

President: *"In 1776, one of the first recruiting posters ordered recruits upon enlistment, take courage then, seize the fortune that awaits you, repair to the Marine rendezvous, where in a flowing bowl of punch, and three times three you shall drink (pause), long live the United States and success to the Marines. Mr. Vice, a toast to the country and Corps."*

Mr. Vice: *"Ladies and Gentlemen, a toast. Long live the United States and success to the Marines!"*

Mess: *"Long live the United States and success to the Marines!"*

["Play Marines' Hymn"]

All imbibing should then drain their entire glass and all remain standing while the "Marines' Hymn" is played.

At the conclusion of the music the President will announce that the mess is adjourned and invite those present to join him at the bar. Members and guests should remain at their places until the head table has left the mess. The bar will be open for purchase of refreshments and members and their guests will be free to congregate. Members and guests should not depart until the President and all official guests have departed.

HT-18NOTE 5060
11 Feb 13

Floor Plan

Below is the basic floor plan that will be used. Specific places at the head table as well as for all other mess members and guests will be assigned as protocol dictates and available for viewing during the cocktail hour.

