

Action Request from Class President

Classmates,

Most of us have finally put away our slide rules and manual typewriters in favor of electronic devices. It hasn't happened without a few grumbles and frustrations on our part (as well as reliance on our grandchildren to get us through the rough patches). The change does, however offer a number of previously unavailable benefits.

Bill Lewis, Richard Harper and I, with the assistance of our great Company Reps, have tried to maintain a database of current contact information in order to enable us to provide information to all members of our class. It is used to manage our reunions, class lunches, and reports to the class from me on a variety of matters. Bill and I also reply to requests for contact information from individual classmates. Each of you who are faced with keeping current your own personal e-mail, address and telephone lists understand that it is a major task. Imagine trying to keep data current for our 1068 grads and non grads! Sadly, for many reasons, despite our efforts, we just don't have a complete file.

The Alumni Association has been working hard to improve communications with and for alumni. They maintain and make available a number of resources for individual alumni and class leadership including a searchable data base, a system called "Classmail" that allows class officers to send class wide messages using current up to date e-mail lists, and a wealth of information about USNA.

Examples of the information range from security requirements for entering the Academy to how to find your class tailgate at home football games.

Please go to www.usna.com/login and log on to access the full range of data. Click on "Stay connected" to reach the searchable database. If you want to find classmates who may live in your area, or a city you plan to visit, just fill in the search request and it appears like magic! The data is available and current only if classmates themselves keep it current. If you receive Shipmate, the data is usually in place and current. However, I strongly recommend that **ALL** classmates input their contact information. Do not be concerned about receiving e-mails that you don't want to receive. In your profile you can opt out of receiving selected or all e-mails from the Alumni Association. For example, while I myself am a strong

supporter of donations to the USNA Foundation, you can choose to opt out of any Foundation messages on donations. If you keep your data current, it can make it much easier for your class officers to serve you better.

Our long range objective is to migrate from our current class database toward the Alumni Association database, but we won't do so until we are sure that the vast majority of our classmates will be better served by the change. If you have trouble using the database send me a note and I'll put you in touch with Paige Fuller at the Alumni Association who will help you.

By the way, Beat Air Force on Saturday!!!

John