

# NAVY PARENTS - NAVY DEPENDENTS – NAVY LOVED ONES

## SARGE'S

### SURVIVAL GUIDE© VERSION 02-08-19

## MAJOR CHANGE REGARDING OVERNIGHT LIBERTY

### See section regarding Liberty

**Subject to change without notification. Updates will be posted when available.**

This guide is intended for Navy Families and loved ones who will travel to the Great Lakes Naval Station for the **Pass in Review (P.I.R.)** also known as Navy Boot Camp Graduation. The information contained herein is current as of the publication date **02-08-19** and is subject to change without notice. This document is not indorsed by the United States Navy, Department of Defense, or any other U.S. Government agency or any commercial entity and is not intended as an Official Department of the Navy document. Please take a moment to read this in its entirety.

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**If you find this document useful and would like to contribute for my efforts, please do so at**  
<https://paypal.me/navytaxi>

**It will read Anchors Aweigh Transport Inc.**

### About us.

Congratulations and welcome to the World's Greatest Navy family. Please take a moment to read this document. This will be a life saver while you prepare for your trip to Great Lakes and most importantly; while you are here for the Navy Boot Camp Graduation. Please don't miss the maps on the last three pages. ***There is also helpful information for your recruits before they ship out to active duty.***

I entered the United States Army back in 1971 from Brooklyn N.Y. and proudly served our country for 21 years of active duty and retired as a Sergeant First Class. I am married to my best friend Linda since 1973. We have one daughter Kathy, who is my right hand at the Family Meet and Greet which we sponsor the night before Graduation from Boot Camp.



We have traveled around the globe and we know how frustrating it is when you visit a place without any guidance; that is why I prepared this document for you. The information enclosed is based upon my thirty-eight plus years in the Gurnee and Great Lakes area. Many people ask how an Army guy from Brooklyn New York ended up in Great Lakes.

Well the answer is simple. On my last tour of duty, I was stationed at Fort Sheridan, Highwood, IL. We needed housing and the Great Lakes Naval Station was the only military base in the area that had immediate housing available for Senior Enlisted. We fell in love with the area and have seen the Great Lakes Naval Base transform into one of the finest military facilities on the planet. We now reside in Gurnee, IL. There are many things to do in the area and you can save a lot of money by planning and being aware of your surroundings.

The intention of this document is to assist everyone planning to visit the Great Lakes area and attend their Sailors Boot Camp Graduation. Please share this with your loved one's recruiter, so they can help future parents, spouses, and other loved ones. Don't forget to register for the meet and greet.

I am also on Facebook, but if you have trouble adding me as a friend, please contact me via my website [www.mynavytaxi.com](http://www.mynavytaxi.com)

Your e-mails and any information or communications you provide will always be kept private. I will not sell or transfer, any emails or any phone numbers, under any circumstances, without your permission. My team of drivers and I support our Sailors and their families with low-cost, **professional local/long distance taxi** service as well as, to and from all airports including Milwaukee. My team of drivers consist of several Veterans from both the Army and Airforce. Please consider using my team for all your Great Lakes area transportation needs. References can be found on the testimonial page of my website.

Please plan to attend the "Navy Meet and Greet" at Lakehurst Corporate Center, located at 300 Lakehurst Road, Waukegan, IL, right behind the Springhill Suites Hotel. My wife and I have been hosting this night before graduation event for seven years. It is a nice way to meet other new Navy Families in a relaxed setting. If you plan on attending the dinner, please R.S.V.P. at this link:

<http://www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html>

### Basic information about the meet and greet:

The address for this memorable event is the Lakehurst Event Center 300 Lakehurst Road, Waukegan. The meet and greet is for everyone including children and is normally held on Thursday evening the night before graduation. **On rare occasions, we may host it on a Tuesday or Wednesday if graduation day falls on a day other than Friday.**

My wife and I have been hosting this pre-graduation event for seven years. In 2018, we provided over 19,000 meals for our new Navy Families and loved ones. It is a nice way to meet other Navy families in a relaxed setting and meet the parents and loved ones that your sailor has bonded with in their division at boot camp. **None of the food, essentials, or labor is donated. We rely solely on kind contributions of those attending the dinner. We are NOT A 501(C)3 organization.**

*If you plan on attending the dinner, please R.S.V.P. on the website [www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html](http://www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html)*

Please use proper capitalization since the guest list is printed from your entries. Please double check your email address and insure that it is correct before you submit the RSVP. Incorrect or spam identified emails will not receive a confirmation.

If you cannot attend and wish to make a heartfelt contribution via credit card you may do so by clicking on the secure link <https://paypal.me/navytaxi> to send your contribution. The link will display Anchors Aweigh Transport Inc. **We are not a 501(C)3 organization and thank you in advance for your support. No PayPal account is needed to contribute. Contributions are NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

In case you are interested or wondering, we do not have any financial stake in the venue or, the Lakehurst Corporate Center (formally known as the Sundance Saloon), or the Tee-shirt vendor. The Lakehurst Corporate Center allows our new Navy Family to use the entire first floor of their corporate center each week at no charge, to our Navy families. **The meet and greet is totally funded by our new Navy families who attend each week through their generous contributions at the buffet table or online. WE DO NOT RECEIVE AND FUNDS FROM THE CORPORATE CENTER OR ITS VENDORS.**

The meet and greet **is not funded by the Navy, DOD (Department of Defense), NWR, or any other organization or charitable institutions.** My wife and I cover all the expenses for the catered food, labor, incidentals, and cleaning expenses, **forty-eight times a year, thanks to the kind contributions the week before.** We believe in paying forward and your kind support, through kind voluntary contributions and raffle ticket sales, ensures that our future Navy families will have the same opportunity to attend this gala event prior to graduation like you did. Your heartfelt contributions help offset our out-of-pocket expenses and assist in funding the future meet and greets. Our biggest meet and greet was on **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 when we had over 821 Navy loved one's attend.**

Please plan to attend even if you can't contribute. If you'd like to bring a basket to raffle, either your choice, or themed to your home State, please do so. **MAKE THE BASKET INTERESTING. Alcohol is acceptable.** Keep in mind that some families may travel on airplanes and may have to place their winnings in a suitcase. If you're contributing a basket, please download the form on our website at [www.mynavytaxi.com/goodies.html](http://www.mynavytaxi.com/goodies.html) and bring it with your basket. Make the basket exciting so people will want to purchase prize tickets.

Please pass the word around to other guests at your hotel as they may not be aware of this event. Children of all ages are always welcome. Dress is very casual - come as you like. There is only one large 10 top table per division (first come first served), so you can sit with and meet the families that your sailor has bonded with while in boot camp. Remaining open seating is available.

**When you enter the lobby, please sign the guest roster and make a name tag with your first name and your sailor's division number and indicate how many guests arrived.**

There is one large round table in the front of the stage which is reserved for physically challenged individuals. There is no other reserved seating other than by one large 10 top per division, first come, first served. There may be one table reserved for the **Great Lakes "A"** school students and special guest. Please respect the **"reserved signs"**

Finally - the buffet line will remain open until all the delicious food is gone. **This is not finger food, it is real meals.** There is voluntary contribution box located at the head of the buffet table if you wish to help with your kind contributions towards our future meet and greets. **We are not a 501(3) (C) organization and contributions are not tax deductible, and we thank you in advance.** Checks are acceptable and can be made out to Anchors Aweigh Transportation. Alcohol and soft drinks are available at the bar for purchase. Please drink responsibly.

**God Bless our service members, our first responders, their families, and the great United States of America!**

**Welcome aboard to the World's Greatest Navy Family and congratulations on your Sailor's Honor, Courage, and Commitment to our Great United States of America.**



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Great lakes history can be found at this link

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval\\_Station\\_Great\\_Lakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Station_Great_Lakes)

**Navy slang can be found at this unofficial link**

[https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Glossary\\_of\\_U.S.\\_Navy\\_slang](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Glossary_of_U.S._Navy_slang)

**Gifts for your sailors and challenge coins can be found at**

<http://pirgifts.com> which is owned by a retired Navy member.

## PREFACE

If you're reading this now, most likely your loved one is in boot camp or will be entering active duty soon. Boot Camp is the first step on the journey for your recruit to become a United States Navy Sailor. Some families wait for the "I'm a sailor" call before they plan their trip to Great Lakes. Planning in advance is essential to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable trip and save money. Even some seasoned travelers make mistakes and forget essentials. I hope my Navy Family Survival Guide© answers all your questions. If you have any questions or if there is something I did not cover, feel free to call me at 847-212-0246 before 11:00 PM **central time** or email me at [info@mynavytaxi.com](mailto:info@mynavytaxi.com) ***This document is subject to change without notice.***

**New requirements for recruits who will enter active duty on or after January 1, 2018. Please read this chapter with your recruit before they ship out.**

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) -- **Beginning Jan. 1, Recruit Training Command (RTC)**, the Navy's only boot camp, will require recruits to pass an initial run standard before they may commence basic military training. The initial run standard is evaluated on the 1.5 mile run of the first Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) at boot camp. The initial run standard for male recruits will be 16 minutes 10 seconds and 18 minutes seven seconds for female recruits.

"All military services have an initial physical fitness standard before recruits can commence basic training," *said Rear Adm. Mike Bernacchi, commander, Naval Service Training Command. "The initial run standard raises the bar at RTC, helping us develop tough, more qualified Sailors during basic military training and send a more lethal force to the fleet."*

To graduate boot camp, all recruits must score a satisfactory medium on the official Navy PFA. To ensure recruits advance toward this goal over their eight weeks of training, the initial run standard sets the minimum run time at which a recruit must start training in order to meet their expected level of progress.

If a recruit fails to meet the initial run standard, **they will have one chance to retest within 48 hours. If they fail the retest, recruits will be discharged from the Navy with an entry level separation, which allows them to reapply at a later date with a waiver from Navy Recruiting Command.**

***"It is the responsibility of each recruit to work hard and maintain all Navy standards,"*** said RTC Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Garrick. ***"Physical fitness is one of the greatest predictors of Sailor success. Before they arrive to boot camp, recruits are expected to train to meet the physical fitness standards."***

For recruits who prove they are serious about physical fitness by achieving an **outstanding high** on their final PFA at boot camp, they will be meritoriously advanced to the next pay grade upon graduation.

Navy Recruiting Command provides recruits with a [\*\*\*fitness and nutrition guide\*\*\*](#), click on the blue text, which they can follow on their own or with the help of their recruiting office. Using the fitness and nutrition guide to prepare for the initial run standard, more recruits will report to boot camp physically fit, reducing attrition due to PFA failures and raising the quality of Sailors that reach the fleet.

Recruits who pass the initial run standard may commence basic military training and are placed in groups based on their initial fitness abilities. Throughout their training, recruits are encouraged to advance to higher levels of fitness through participation in cardio and strength training exercises. As recruit's advance, they improve their fitness level and prepare for success in the fleet.

Boot camp is approximately eight weeks long and all enlistees into the U.S. Navy begin their careers at the command. Training includes physical fitness, seamanship, firearms training, firefighting and shipboard damage control along with lessons in Navy heritage and core values, teamwork and discipline. About 30,000 to 40,000 recruits graduate annually from RTC and begin their Navy careers.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

1. **\*\* NOTE \*\* Make sure your Recruit decides to have their boot camp photos mailed to your home.** Too much valuable time is wasted on graduation day waiting for pictures at the NEX (Navy Exchange). Recruits who pick up their pictures prior to graduation must go back to their ships after the ceremony and retrieve the photos. **Valuable time is wasted.** They should also **travel light on their DEP-OUT date.** Most of them only need the clothes they are wearing and personal hygiene items. Everything else will be sent home in the infamous **"sailor in a box."** \*\*\* note hazard items **WILL NOT BE SHIPPED BACK and will be disposed of.** Items included, VAPE DEVICES, lighter fluid or butane, batteries, will be disposed of and not given back to recruits.

2. **VERY IMPORTANT - If anything has changed while your recruit was in the delayed entry program (DEP)** such as marriage, divorce, medical issues, citizenship, or additional dependents, please make sure that your recruit brings the official **ORIGINAL** documents to support the changes to M.E.P.S. **The career counselor MUST** update the recruits **DD FORM 1966 page 1 and page 2** to reflect changes.

**THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE** it affects benefits the recruit or their dependents may be entitled to such as health insurance (**TRICARE**), Military I.D. and housing allowances.

Additional documentation supporting changes such as high school graduation, high school transcripts (**may be needed to verify course completion for certain rates**), or college transcripts, are to be brought to the M.E.P.S. because it could affect their **Entry Pay Grade or rate qualifications.**

**JROTC cadets should bring the written grade advancement recommendations** and supporting documents needed so your recruit will not lose his advance grade prior to graduation from boot camp.

3. **Notify your credit card company or local banks** that you are traveling. If you don't, they may decline charges while you are here. This is your financial institutions way of preventing credit card theft. **Also notify your recruits local bank or credit union** that they have been temporary relocated out of state for military duty, so they can monitor his/her purchases. **I always recommend that your recruit authorizes you to talk to his financial institution (power of attorney) or put your name on the account** prior to him/her leaving should there be an incident that requires your intervention. Also get the bank routing number and account number if your sailor desires to have their paycheck sent to their home town bank or financial institution.

***It is advisable for your recruit to give you "Power of Attorney" and provide a copy of the Power of Attorney to his school and/or their financial institution, should you have to intervene while they are away.***



4. If you are arriving late for either your hotel or rental car, please inform them that you are arriving later than expected (**especially when flights are delayed**) this way they will hold your reservations. Hotels and rental car companies may cancel your reservation if you are more than 4 hours late. Also allow enough extra time (three hours) when arriving and departing if you are renting a car.
5. This is not meant to frighten you, but it is reality. Right now, there are many recruits who are delayed from training and moved to ship 5 (SEPS) **because they concealed information whether intentional or unintentional, from the M.E.P.S. Doctors, Career Counselors, or Recruiters.**
6. During the in-processing phase known as **P-DAYS** (the first stop off the bus after arriving from O'Hare) at Great Lakes, they are informed of the penalties for **fraudulent enlistment** and they are given a chance to disclose any information that they may have concealed during their enlistment process.

This is known as the **"Moment of Truth."** Today's technology has many ways of gleaning information from the past to include; **Military Dependent Medical Records, Military Police files, court records, vital statistics records, school records, fingerprints, health insurance records, other insurance records, traffic/arrest records, and social media websites.**

Some individuals may have been coached by friends, relatives, or other sources, not to disclose certain items that could disqualify them from military service. Most of the time these issues, had they been disclosed prior to entry into the delayed entry program, could have been waived, **however; since it was not revealed at time of entry into the dep or at time of entry to active duty, it is now considered concealed and is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, also known as UCMJ, and violates integrity and is a valid reason for separation.**

***If your recruit has not shipped out yet, talk to them. If there is something that he or she concealed from the M.E.P.S., the RECRUITER, or YOU,*** I strongly suggest that you take them to the recruiter, and in your presence and the Recruiters' supervisor, reveal the incident. Get as much documentation as possible and bring it with you to the Recruiter.

Here is a common issue example – A military dependent was treated for a behavior disorder while their parent was in the military. Although they were only 7 years old at the time, **the entry was made in their dependent health record.** These records are now merged with his enlistment health records and it surfaces during their medical screening at arrival to Great Lakes. Had this been previously disclosed, it may have not been an issue, however; **now it is an issue, and all training and processing comes to a screeching halt.**

My advice – **always be truthful with the Recruiters and Guidance Counselors.** It will save a lot of heartache and embarrassment down the road. **There is still time to make corrections prior to shipping out.**

***One last note: Please make sure your recruit can swim.***  
*Many are discharged because they fail the swim test and prone float.*



# Chapter 1

## PREPARATION FOR YOUR TRAVEL TO THE GREAT LAKES GRADUATION

OK you're all excited. Your loved one has left the M.E.P.S. and you cried your eyes out. As the bus left the parking lot and turned the corner, those tears of sorrow slowly turned to tears of joy because now; there is no more doing their laundry, pressing their clothes, preparing their meals, or handing them twenty-dollar bills. Oh, and not to mention, getting them out of bed. You finally get home and start to wonder, what do I do next?

The first thing you should do is go out and get some writing paper, envelopes, and postage stamps. Old fashioned letter writing is the only communication you will have with your loved one once they arrive at boot camp. The night they process in, you will receive a call from your recruit and they will let you know that they arrived safely. In about a week and a half, you will receive your recruits personal belonging. **See below.**

***I strongly recommend that your recruit does not bring their cell phones*** or any personal items except as those directed by **RTC**, they will only be sent back. All they really need is the clothes they are wearing, their I. D's, and plenty of change for the pay phones or a phone card, and their confidence.

**Here are OFFICIAL RTC GUIDELINES FOR SAILORS Extracted from the Navy's official website**

**The following is a list of authorized personal items that you recruit may want to bring to training but are not required.**

**NOTE: Any unauthorized or unnecessary items (including civilian clothes) will be boxed up and shipped home at your recruits' expense. Some hazardous items will be disposed of and not given back to recruits. Items disposed of include vape devices, lighter fluid, butane fuel, and batteries (instant charging packs).**

### **MUST BRING ITEMS PER RTC OFFICIAL WEBSITE**

1. Photo ID and driver's license (other than DOD dependent ID card)
2. Social Security card
3. Marriage Certificate **ALSO see this link for Military spouse information**  
**[http://www.netc.navy.mil/nstc/military\\_spouse.html](http://www.netc.navy.mil/nstc/military_spouse.html)**
4. Divorce Decree (if divorced while in the Delayed Entry Program)
5. Certified true copies of Dependent birth certificates (including spouses birth certificate)
6. Complete civilian and Military immunization records
7. DDS Form
8. Permanent resident card I-151 (for non-citizens)
9. Naturalization certificate - if a Naturalized Citizen
10. Direct deposit information from local banks including the **bank routing number, account holders name, and account number.**

**Ok to Bring the following items:**

1. Wrist watch, wedding ring
2. Religious medallion (No larger than approximately 2"x1")
3. Writing material (NO bottled ink)
4. Pocket dictionary
5. Pocket-sized religious text
6. Small address book
7. Small hairbrush and comb
8. Pre-paid phone cards
9. One pair of prescription glasses or reading glasses
10. A small amount of cash (i.e. less than \$10)

**Female recruits may retain the following personal items:**

1. Feminine sanitary items
2. Conservative cosmetics. Female/one of each: face powder, blush, lipstick, eye shadow and mascara (non-aerosol or glass). Make-up will be authorized for division photos and graduation weekend only.
3. Barrettes (Female/must match hair color)
4. Birth control medications

**RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND - WHAT NOT TO BRING ITEMS THAT WILL BE SENT HOME OR DISCARDED (AS APPLICABLE):**

1. Large cans of shaving cream. (12oz. or larger)
2. All aerosol containers
3. After-shave/cologne
4. Lighter fluid/butane
5. Disposable Lighters (the fluid cartridge of a "Zippo" lighter will be confiscated).
6. Magazines, books (non-Navy)
7. Playing cards, dice, gambling paraphernalia
8. Large bulky stationery
9. Large hair combs/afro pics, rakes or anything made of metal
10. Anything in glass containers including mirrors
11. Double-edge razors, blades
12. Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vapes, tobacco, chewing tobacco
13. Large deodorants (larger than 4oz)
14. Alcohol-based health & comfort items
15. Portable electronics (Cell phones, pagers, PDAs, CD/cassette players, radios, MP3 players, hand held video games)

16. Civilian clothing
17. Cameras
18. Electric razors
19. Hair dryers
20. Curling irons
21. Other electrical items deemed unnecessary by the staff of RTC
22. Food items (gums, candy, chips, etc.)
23. **All non-prescription drugs and medications that include, but are not limited to:**
  - a. Phisoderm, Phisoheh, etc.
  - b. Foot powders
  - c. Rubbing alcohol
  - d. Motion sickness medication
  - e. Commercial sleeping aids
  - f. Decongestants
  - g. Acne medications
  - h. Antihistamines
  - i. Analgesics
  - j. Eye wash/saline solution
  - k. Contraceptives (diaphragms, condoms, etc.)
  - l. Vitamins
24. Firearms
25. Ammunition/fireworks
26. Clubs, batons, etc.
27. Brass knuckles
28. All straight razors, knives, ice picks, scissors
29. Narcotics/illegal drugs or any paraphernalia **including prescription marijuana.**

You will receive a letter from your recruit within 2-3 weeks after arrival to Great Lakes with the graduation date and **FORMS REQUIRED TO ATTEND GRADUATION. There is a reply period on graduation forms. FAILURE TO REPLY COULD RESULT IN YOUR DENIAL TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION.**

Normally you will receive a call midway through training, and of course, the infamous “I’m a Sailor” call during the last week of training. There is no time-table for calls. If your recruit fails a portion of training or is injured, you will receive a **scripted call** which could necessitate a travel change.

The second thing you should do is make a check list for the travel to Great Lakes. If you try to do it by memory, you may forget something. I can’t tell you how many times I am approached at the Meet and Greet and asked by someone “what do I do – we forgot our I.D.”?

Here is a simple checklist to start you off. You may want to add to this list as you go along.

### TRAVEL CHECKLIST – RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Get transportation tickets, i.e. bus, train, airline **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE** once you officially know your loved one's graduation date. Check the terms of travel insurance, baggage allowance, and cancellation or change fees.
2. If you do not plan on renting a car, schedule your taxi pickup at airport or train station with me once you have your itinerary on my website [www.mynavytaxi.com](http://www.mynavytaxi.com) **Please make your pickup reservations on the website as soon as possible.** Do not wait until the last moment. Please make your reservations on my website **at least 2 weeks before your arrival**. See airport rates at end of chapter 4. My team and I are a full-service Taxi and Limo Company for all your local and long-distance service.
3. Schedule dog or house sitters and arrange for trash pick-up.
4. Gather I.D.'s as required by the Navy to enter the bases. **PLEASE make sure they are not EXPIRED.** If your I.D. is expired, you could be denied access to aircraft and other public transportation and most importantly, **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PICK UP GRADUATION TICKETS AND be denied access to ALL the Naval Bases and Graduation.** **Expired government I.D.s WILL BE CONFISCATED.**
5. **All guests 18 years and older** must present valid government issued photo identification (driver's license, state ID card, DDS, passport, military ID card). **Guests 17 years or younger who do not possess one the items listed above must present one of the following:** Copy of their Birth Certificate, or Social Security card, school ID card, or driver's permit or license. **NOTE: Any identification that is State or U.S. Government issued and is EXPIRED to include military dependent I.D.s, will be confiscated and not returned.**
6. Make sure prescription medications are enough for trip and in their original bottles. If you do not wish to take the original bottles, get a letter from your doctor so you can use it as proof that you are entitled to travel with those drugs. **Prescription marijuana is NOT ALLOWED on Military reservations.**
7. Notify schools for children who will be absent.
8. Ask neighbors to hold mail or notify the U.S. Postal service.
9. Make a security sweep of the house. Insure that windows are locked, timers are set, and car and truck doors locked, water plants, and adjust heat or air conditioning.
10. Check airlines policy **regarding baggage charges and weight limits.** **\*\* This is a common uncalculated expense. \*\***
11. Cell phone chargers, laptops, and cell phones. Note – fully charge all phones prior to leaving home.
12. Email forwarding for work if needed.
13. **Don't advertise on face book or other social media that you are traveling.** Thieves can search anything on the internet and find out you are gone.
14. If you have a smart phone, download the **INRIX or WAZE** free travel app. Great app to see traffic ahead of you. Don't forget your **EZ-PASS or GPS.**

15. Carry enough cash for a taxi, train, or buses. The Metra train does not accept credit or debit cards on the train when the ticket booth is closed. There is an additional \$5.00 for each ticket purchased on the train when the ticket booth is open at the train station.
16. Most Rental Car Companies in this area **do not accept out of state DEBIT cards without holding and additional \$200-\$400 in addition to passing a soft credit check.** Check with your rental car company! **BEST TO USE CREDIT CARD – NOT A DEBIT CARD.** Keep in mind that the credit card **MUST MATCH the driver and the driver's license.** We have established a relationship with **Avis/Budget in Gurnee, Highland Park, and Libertyville** who will accept debit cards and do not charge an additional fee to drop off the vehicle at the airport. **THIS IS A BIG SAVINGS and the owner fully supports our military.** We provide transportation to Highland Park for a reasonable fee. **See the rental car section for the contact information.**
17. Charge your hotel room/car rental on a **credit card** not a **DEBIT Card.** The hotels/rental car companies in conjunction with your financial institution **can take up to 7-14 DAYS** to release your debit card funds after you check out or return the car rental.
18. Bring warm clothing during winter months. If staying at a hotel that has a pool, bring your own swimwear. Swimwear is hard to find in this area during winter months.
19. Bring your own child/infant car seats if necessary.
20. If driving - know the Illinois rules. Click this link - <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/motorist/rorts.html>
21. Bring copies of auto insurance declaration, page if renting a car or driving.
22. Bring your registration and proof of insurance if driving.
- NOTE: REMEMBER – EVERYONE IN THE VEHICLE ENTERING THE BASE FOR GRADUATION MUST HAVE VALID AND UNEXPIRED IDENTIFICATION AND THE GRADUATION TICKETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NAVY GRADUATION POLICY.**
23. Bring your sailors favorite underwear.
24. Bring your sailors contact lenses or personal eyewear and jewelry.
25. Most hotels are pet friendly. If driving, bring the pets. They are family also. Also bring a copy of their vaccinations should they require treatment while you are here. Illinois veterinarians require proof of rabies shots before treatment. **Certified service dogs with their proper credentials are permitted in the graduation hall.**
26. **Notify your local banks and credit unions that you are traveling so your credit/debit cards are not declined.**
27. Bring stadium seats or seat cushions to sit on at the graduation hall.
28. **Finally, please don't forget to attend the meet and greet the night before the graduation.** Make your reservation at [www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html](http://www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html)



## **CHAPTER 2 HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON AIRFARE AND HOTELS**

**Plane or Train or Bus Reservations.** Like I stated earlier, I am not compensated by anyone for the information in this document. The recommendations below are based on my personal experience and knowledge of the area.

You should plan your trip early once you know your recruits' graduation date. I highly recommend you buy **travel insurance**. Three reasons why I think it is necessary.

First, you cannot control external forces. The transportation industry is not required to reimburse or refund tickets due to weather, acts of God, or civil unrest. Also, airlines can bump passengers who have paid for their seat. Recommend that you check-in online prior to getting to the airport. ***Also recommend that your travel at least 2 days prior to graduation this way if there are flight cancellations or severe weather conditions, you have enough time to make alternate plans.***

Secondly, your recruit may fail a portion of their training or get injured and may not graduate as you expected. Wait until you receive the **official graduation date letter** before purchasing tickets for travel. ***Also keep in my that airline tickets and hotels purchased online through travel websites, other than the direct hotel or airline websites, are almost impossible to change without paying additional fees.*** Check the distance of the hotel to the base **USING GOOGLE MAPS**. A few loved ones stay at hotels that are over 7 miles from base and this is an uncalculated time and taxi expense. Being close to the base is not a necessarily a benefit. Check what is available around your lodging using your own due diligence especially if you don't have a vehicle.

**Advertisements can say anything they want to encourage you to book with them. Check YELP® reviews and Google® reviews before you make a final decision on your hotel.** I always recommend the Marriott Spring Hill suites in Waukegan because it is right across the street from the meet and greet and their staff bends over backwards for their guest.

**Also, there are no D.O.D. OFF LIMITS commercial hotels in this area (Navy Lodge and Navy Gateway Inn have separate rules regarding A-School sailor's restriction).**

On Boot Camp Graduation weekend, the Navy Lodge and the Gateway Inn, **are not** "Off Limits" for graduating sailors visiting their families. Overnight Liberty for Boot Camp Graduates however is prohibited. For more information regarding off limits and weapons possession on board see this link

[https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\\_great\\_lakes.html](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns_great_lakes.html)

Lastly, if your sailor graduates and is on hold for security clearances, medical waivers, or other procedures, they will be assigned to a **T.H.U. (Temporary Holding Unit ship 17 USS MAISON)** and will have extended liberty until cleared. I have seen it last for as little as one week and in some cases several months.

Here is a link that tells you your rights as an airline passenger in regards to refunds and compensation: <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-departmenttransportation-expands-airline-passenger-protections>

You can fly into O'Hare, Midway, and or Milwaukee. I recommend either Milwaukee or O'Hare. Midway airport has brutal traffic to the northern suburbs during the hours of 1:00 PM to 8:00

PM. It can take up to **1 and 3/4** hours to get to Waukegan. Not every airline flies to Midway. It is normally cheaper to fly in late on Wednesday night and depart early Monday morning.

***Remember that reservations booked through a bargain travel site are HARD TO, OR ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, to change or get a refund.***

It is advisable to travel two days before graduation - why?

If you travel the day before graduation and there is a storm or any delays, or you get **involuntary booted off the flight because of over booking**, you may not make it to the graduation.

**Additionally, all individuals must pick up their OWN graduation tickets prior to the graduation day. If you arrive after the Welcome Center closes on the day before graduation, you must line up to pick up your tickets the morning of graduation. There will be long lines on the day before graduation to get the tickets. Although the center opens at 5:30 AM on graduation day, expect a long wait and then you must make your way over to the base for graduation. See the section regarding picking up tickets. Remember – “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”.**

***If traveling on AMTRAK,*** get off at Union Station. You can then take the **Metra MILWAUKEE DISTRICT LINE North to Libertyville**. The cab cost from Libertyville Station to your hotel cost around \$24.00. Vs. \$120.00 from Chicago Union Station. If you desire us to pick you up in Libertyville, ***contact us when you arrive at Union Station.*** Once we know what train you are on your way to Libertyville, we will have a driver pick you up when you arrive in Libertyville. The phone number to reach us is 847-212-0246.

If traveling on **Greyhound or Mega bus**, you can also take the Metra **Milwaukee District North Line** from **Union Station** and get off at the Libertyville stop. A cab cost from Libertyville Station to your hotel cost around \$24.00. See above.

<https://metrail.com/maps-schedules/train-lines/MD-N>

NOTE – there are several Greyhound bus stops in Chicago – **make sure you get off at the one downtown on Harrison Street.**

<http://www.greyhound.com/en/locations/terminal.aspx?city=560252>





### CHAPTER 3 RENTAL CARS

So, you have decided to rent a car. This could be a great choice if you are familiar with driving in the city. Driving in the suburbs is normally stressed free; however, city driving can be challenging.

#### Here are some guidelines:

1. If you are going to rent a car at the airport– **USE a CREDIT CARD** not a combo debit/credit card. Here is the reasoning behind that.
  - a. The rental car companies will place a hold on your DEBIT CARD funds in addition to the rental. Normally small institution debit cards are not accepted.
  - b. The holdback charge is around \$200-\$400.
  - c. The funds are released when you return the car however; it may take 7-14 days for your bank to release these funds back to your account.
  - d. Allow at least an additional hour of waiting when arriving to and departing from the airport to receive or return the car. Check offsite hours of the rental car companies. Some close before 10:00 PM
  - e. Keep in mind that if they accept your DEBIT CARD they will run a credit check. Most rental companies will not accept debit cards from local banks or local credit unions – it must be a MAJOR Bank.
2. Each company has different policies – make sure you inquire before you get there. Every week we must rescue families who used a debit card. **For peace of mind, I ONLY RECOMMEND the following:**
  - A. **Avis Rental in Gurnee Mills (ENTRANCE B) next to Victoria Secret. Manager's name is Moe (847)782-1570 or his cell at (773)905-9291.**
  - B. **Libertyville Avis/budget 847-549-7000 or 847-573-0226. Ask for Daniela.**
  - C. **Avis rental car in Highland Park Illinois. The direct contact is 847-433-5529 or 847-266-1330 (ask for Keith)**
  - D. *My team and I provide direct transportation from the airports to these locations. It is less expensive to rent locally rather than at the airports and there is no charge to return the rental car to the airport. Also, **YOU SAVE TIME and MONEY!** They all are military friendly and will bend over backwards for our Navy families. Just mention that you are a Navy Family and that Sarge referred you. **I don't receive any compensation from any AVIS rentals.***
3. Use the **I-PASS** option when renting. If you have your own **I-PASS or EZPASS**, bring it with you. It is far better to pay up front for tolls than to risk missing a toll and paying a fine.
4. You only need the Graduation Tickets, rental documentation, and your Driver's License to access the RTC base. I always recommend that you bring your Insurance Card or Proof of insurance to save time and heart-aches. **There is no longer a gate pass required to access RTC on graduation day. Only ticketed persons will be allowed on RTC.** Driver must have a ticket, or the vehicle will be turned around.
5. Seat belts and hands-free cell phones are the law. **Wear the belts and stay off the phone.**

**Chapter 4 TAXI AND LIMO SERVICES \*\* SEE CHAPTER 18 REGARDING PASSENGERS BILL OF RIGHTS. PLEASE GIVE A COPY OF CHAPTER 18 IF YOUR SAILOR IS STAYING HERE FOR GREAT LAKES "A" SCHOOL OR PRE-SPECIAL OPS TRAINING OR INDOCTRINATION**

The Taxi Cabs are regulated by both the State of Illinois and the Municipality which they are licensed in.

Our team is made up of mostly military veterans **(HIGHLIGHTED)**. My team consists of

**Myself - Sarge cab 175, Anthony Kennedy - cab 7982, William Harris - cab 7943, Jack Nease - cab 7946,** and Dave Morphew 7981, Shawn Cab 128, Yvonne Cab 131, Kelvin cab 121

These are the best drivers in the business, and they know the area and will treat you fairly. Please review our comments on the face book pages or on my website.

<http://www.mynavytaxi.com/testimonials.html> .

If you need a taxi from the airport, **please make a reservation at least 2 weeks in advance** on my website [www.mynavytaxi.com](http://www.mynavytaxi.com) **for last minute pickups at the airport, within 48 hours of your arrival; please call me at 847-212-0246 in addition to making the reservation online.**

Reservations from Airports are a must to ensure that we can accommodate you.

**Here are the guidelines regarding taxi-fares.**

If you take a **City Cab** from the airport taxi lines that was not a **pre-arranged suburban ride**, the fare will be what the meter reads plus an additional one-half of the meter, plus the toll, plus the \$4.00 city departure tax, and an additional \$1.00 per passenger and the \$1.50 toll.

So, a city cab from O'Hare to the Navy Lodge (ONE WAY) could cost around \$90.00- \$110.00. From Midway and Milwaukee, it can cost anywhere from **\$174 - \$200 ONE WAY** depending on the hotel if you are NOT USING OUR SERVICE.

**REMEMBER – These are ONE WAY FARES.**

**My Team's Service options** are far better than the city cab rates or the "SHUTTLE COMPANY RATES." Our rates include round trip to and from the Airports **(per van)**. **No other transportation is included however; we can take you anywhere to include picking up the tickets for graduation, rides to restaurants, and other travel you need for an additional charge.**

We are fully insured and licensed to do business in the City of Chicago and the Suburbs.

Maximum passengers per van are six and one piece of luggage per person.

**O'Hare CAB rate - \$99.00 ROUND TRIP** for the cab- **Not per person (max 6 passengers maximum)** which includes round trip to and from airport, all tolls and airport departure tax. Additional fees are charged to go to graduation, pick up tickets prior to arrival to your hotel, or after arrival to your hotel. These additional fees will be a meter run. For hotels that are more than seven miles from the base there is an additional charge.

**Midway CAB rate - \$159.00 ROUND TRIP - Not per person (max 6 passengers maximum)** which includes round trip to and from airport, all tolls and airport departure tax. Additional fees are charged to go to graduation, pick up tickets prior to arrival to your hotel, or after arrival to your hotel. These additional fees will be a meter run. For hotels that are more than seven miles from the base there is an additional charge.

**Milwaukee CAB rate - \$159.00 ROUND TRIP - Not per person (max 6 passengers maximum)** which includes round trip to and from airport, all tolls and airport departure tax. Additional fees are required to go to graduation, pick up tickets prior to arrival to your hotel or after arrival to

your hotel. These additional fees will be a meter run. For hotels that are more than seven miles from the base there is an additional charge.

From **Union Station or the Greyhound, or Mega bus depot** the rate is **\$90.00 ONE WAY**.

Additional fees are required to go to graduation, pick up tickets prior to arrival to your hotel or after arrival to your hotel. These additional fees will be a meter run. Recommend you use METRA from union Station see above.

Any local transportation is either a metered ride or a flat rate. **There is an additional fee for a separate ride to pick up graduation tickets.**

***The list of taxi services that the U.S. Navy sends out in the packet for graduation and the list that the Navy Lodge provides, are OUTDATED. Additionally; several companies on the list are not authorized to pick up on Navy property nor transport into the base. SHARED RIDE companies cannot pick up on or inside RTC or NSTC. If you use any share ride company, you will pay the highest premium if the pick up is in the City of North Chicago.***

Please check before you make reservations with a transportation company because certain taxi or limo services ***are not authorized or Vetted for access inside*** the Great Lakes Naval Service Training Command; ***nor are they authorized to pick up*** at Naval Facilities including the **Navy Lodge, Gateway Inn, Housing, RTC, Commissary, NEX, MEPCOM, and Building 525** across from the sailors living quarters.

The Navy Lodge offers a shuttle to the graduation. After graduation, the Navy Lodge shuttle picks up at the RTC NEX. The shuttle currently drops off passengers at Gate 8 (OHIO STREET) on graduation morning.

- a. **RIDE SHARE COMPANIES AND LIMO'S (NON-VETTED) ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO ACCESS INSIDE THE GREAT LAKES NAVY BASE GATES. THEY MAY HOWEVER DROP OFF AT THE NAVY LODGE, OFF BASE AND HOUSING, GATE 1 PUBLIC PARKING LOT, GATE 8 PUBLIC LOT, COMMISSARY OFF BASE, AND THE NAVY EXCHANGE OFF BASE.**
- b. **NON-VETTED TAXI CABS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP INSIDE THE BASE INCLUDING THE OFF-BASE NAVY LODGE, NAVY HOUSING, NAVY EXCHANGE, MEPCOM, MARINE CORP AVIATION GATE OR THE COMMISSARY. SHARED RIDES FROM THESE LOCATIONS WILL BE A PREMIUM COST.**
- c. Military and Civilians alike, who use **UNAUTHORIZED DRIVERS or RIDE SHARE** companies to gain unauthorized access inside the base to drop them off, **WILL face disciplinary action because it is a BREACH OF SECURITY and will lose liberty.**
- d. My team and I are fully vetted and authorized to access inside the Navy Base during the set times of Monday-Friday (2:00 PM until 10:00 PM), Saturday and Sunday (06:00 AM - until 10:00 PM). We can also drop off and pick up 24/7 at the main gate or the Navy Lodge. Remember, the guest(s) of military must be escorted always while on Naval Facilities unless their guest(s) have a valid Military I.D. or a valid military dependent I.D. See these additional links for information regarding your visit or on base access.  
[http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\\_great\\_lakes/om/force\\_prottection.html](http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns_great_lakes/om/force_prottection.html)

*Note: If you feel that you can get a better deal with a shuttle company, then I STRONGLY SUGGEST you do your due diligence. Remember, the Shuttle companies are shared rides and you must wait for them to fill up **and they charge by the person.** Keep in mind that the shuttle companies may make*

multiple stops along the way and your travel time is now extended. They are also **NOT AUTHORIZED** to pick up inside the base or as indicated above.

Most Navy loved ones prefer “**PRE-ARRANGED SUBURBAN**” companies like ours ([mynavytaxi.com](http://mynavytaxi.com)) to avoid long delays. Most shuttle companies do not pick up before 5:00 AM for your return to the airport – **PLEASE – do your homework.**

**See what our customers have said at [www.mynavytaxi.com/testimonials.html](http://www.mynavytaxi.com/testimonials.html)** Most of my team are military veterans and your support means a lot to us, and we thank you in advance.

## **Chapter 5 – PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

There are several ways to commute to and from the airports using public transportation. Keep in mind that public transportation can save you money however; **it will take much longer** for you to reach your hotel and you still must take a cab to your hotel from the public train station.

1. **From O’Hare** – take the **Blue line** train downtown and get off at the Jackson St stop. Walk or take a cab west to the **Ogilvie Transportation Center (OTC)**. From the Ogilvie station take the **Union Pacific North** towards Kenosha and get off at the Great Lakes Stop.
2. **From Midway** – take the **Orange line** and get off at the Washington-Wells stop and walk or take a cab to Ogilvie Transportation Center. From the Ogilvie station take the **Union Pacific North** towards Kenosha and get off at the Great Lakes Stop.
3. **From Milwaukee** – NO public transportation available except private taxi/limo/shuttle.
4. **From Union Station** (AMTRAK) or Greyhound or Mega bus, take the **Milwaukee District Line North** to Libertyville. Let us know when you board the train and we will have a cab waiting for you when you arrive.
5. Keep in mind that this will add time to your travel and the trains do not run at every hour – check the links here <https://metrarail.com/maps-schedules> and also check the CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) times for trains running from the airport to the City. BLUE LINE CHICAGO from O’HARE <http://www.transitchicago.com/blueline/>, **From Midway use** <http://www.transitchicago.com/orangeline/> also realize that you are advertising that you are from out of town with your luggage. If you need transportation from the Libertyville station or the Great Lakes station, please call me at 847-212-0246 prior to your trip so we can plan.

## **CHAPTER 6 – HOTEL COMMON SENSE**

**Staying close to the base is not always the best option – please read.**

Some of you are seasoned travelers however; for many, this is your first time at a hotel. The best advice I can give you is; do your own due-diligence. Everyone likes to read reviews; however, every person is entitled to their opinion. If you see 20 reviews and 19 say “it’s the worst place on the planet” and one say’s “it was fabulous just what I expected,” use your common sense. You get what you pay for however; more does not necessary mean it is best. I can’t recommend any hotel because I could be liable; so, I will give you some guidelines:

**REMEMBER – hotels booked online through a travel site rather than the hotel chain directly, may be almost impossible to cancel or change the dates without a cost!**

You want a hotel that offers a **FULL BREAKFAST** **without an additional cost.** Why you ask? – Most continental breakfast will not fill you up or are limited. **ASK – what their continental**

breakfast consist of. **Being close to the base really does not make a difference.** Most hotels in Lake County are not more than 20 minutes from base.

1. **Check the address of the hotel** – some advertise that they are only **X** miles away and they may be over 10 miles away. **CHECK - CHECK - CHECK. REMEMBER – PAID advertisements can say anything they wish in their brochures or newspapers. The Navy nor N.W.R. does not investigate claims or validity made by advertisers in their brochures. It is your responsibility to do your own due diligence.**

I recommend the hotels that are close to or at the Lakehurst Event Center. The address of the Lakehurst Event center (meet and greet) is 300 Lakehurst Road, Waukegan, IL. There are several hotels that are within walking distance to restaurants and the meet and greet and you get more bang for your buck.

2. Check the reviews on the PIR face book pages. Here are the face book groups you can search and join and ask questions about the hotels they stayed at.
  - a. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Rtcgreatlakes>
  - b. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Navysupportgroup>
  - c. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/327167160695549>
  - d. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/786122078090192>
  - e. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/900Division>
  - f. <https://www.facebook.com/NavalStationGreatLakes>
  - g. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/777845905588758>
  - h. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/696238853802964> (800 Divisions)
  - i. <https://www.facebook.com/events/352237891919680/>
  - j. **To join a face book group that graduates on your sailor's date – search Facebook for the following "PIR MM-DD-YY" example "PIR 03-08-19"**

Book online **directly with the hotels** – some hotel chains have better rates than the so-called bargain websites and it is easier to change the dates without a penalty.

## **CHAPTER 7 – SARGE'S MEET AND GREET**

The meet and greet for our Navy loved ones and is a private event that my wife and I sponsor the night before graduation. We host these events 48 times a year and average over 400 people each week. We are not supported by the U.S. Navy or DOD, or any other organization, **nor are we a 501(C)(3) corporation. This event is by invitation only.** If you would like to attend the dinner event you must register at [www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html](http://www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html) Navy family members and loved ones are invited. Children are also allowed.

All expenses for the meet and greet (food, labor, supplies, clean up etc.) are provide by my wife and I out of our personal funds and supplemented from the weeks prior contributions. **None of the food or labor is donated** - it is all purchased from local restaurants and vendors. This is a full meal – not finger food. Previous weeks contributions help defray the cost.

We believe in paying forward and your kind support insures that our future Navy families have the same opportunity to attend this gala event prior to graduation. If you cannot attend and however like to make a contribution via credit card, you may securely do so at <https://paypal.me/navytaxi> it will show our company **"Anchors Aweigh Transport Inc."** There is no PayPal account required. Your support is greatly appreciated.



As stated above, no contribution is required to eat however; your generous - heartfelt contributions are needed, so we can continue **to host this event 48 weeks a year**. Last year (2018) we provided free meals for **over 19,000 Navy loved ones and**; our future Navy families thank you in advance. There is a contribution box at the head of the buffet table.

Baskets are not required; however, it is a fun way to generate interest and can be anything you wish to put together, make it interesting so people would want to WIN IT! Alcohol is acceptable.

Dress is **VERY CASUAL** - come as you like. Many hotels do not talk about the event. Please, if you see a family at your hotel, tell them about the meet and greet; they may not be on face book or may not be aware of the event. Please spread the word.

The buffet line (**real meals not finger food**) will remain open until all the food is gone. Beverages are provided at the bar for a reasonable cost, The Lakehurst Event Center allows our Navy Families to use of the room for free. All I must do is make sure the room is in order after the event and provide all the food and labor. Our largest meet and greet was in October 2017, with over 800 loved ones attending.



## CHAPTER 8 ACCESSING GREAT LAKES RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND (RTC) BASIC RULES OF ENTRY TO BASE

### **MAJOR CHANGES SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2017**

#### **GATE PASS IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.**

When driving onto **Recruit Training Command** please have your **Graduation Tickets (see chapter 9)**, **VALID UNEXPIRED** driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and tickets for every passenger ready, as you will not be admitted without them. If you are driving a rental car, the rental agreement and your driver's license, and graduation tickets will suffice. **All occupants (including the driver of the vehicle), must have their identification and graduation tickets available and must wear seat belts in accordance with Navy Graduation Policy. If someone in the vehicle does not have the aforementioned, vehicle and occupants will be turned around. No taxi cabs or limos or shuttles are authorized entry on to RTC in the morning.**

Currently the entrance for graduation is gate # 8 which is located on Ohio Street adjacent to the Metra Parking lot. **Note: Gate 6 most likely will be closed for operational necessity and with large graduations Gate 6 may be opened with the Commanders discretion. See the short cut section of this guide.**

- No hand-held cell phones are permitted for **use by the driver in the State of Illinois**
- **NO BACK PACKS, TRAVEL LUGGAGE, BALLONS, STROLLERS, FLOWERS, WEAPONS, OR SIGNS** are permitted in the graduation hall.
- Seat belts must be worn, and children must be properly secured in accordance with Illinois law regarding approved child restraint devices.
- Obey speed limits and directions of military and civilian guards.
- Military personnel in uniform must wear head gear AT ALL TIME INCLUDING inside vehicles while on base.
- Lock your vehicle and remember your parking location. Also, don't forget your identification.
- Remember there are check points for ID. All vehicles and personnel are subject to search.
- Identification must not be expired. **Military or government identification** that is expired **will be confiscated by the sentry's and entry will be denied.**
- Wheel Chairs are available – ask guard at the entry to base.
- Walk on sidewalks and cross at crosswalks.
- All comments are taken seriously. No joking about terrorism or violence.
- Guests should be aware that **LARGE** camera bags, purses, etc. are subject to search or may be placed in a holding area by Security. Contraband, including but not limited to: alcohol, illegal drugs, knives or weapons of any kind, will be confiscated and you will be denied entry and could face arrest. **Prescription marijuana is prohibited on all Naval facilities.**
- Furthermore, smoking or use of vapor devices is prohibited onboard RTC; **including in your vehicles.**

**Outdoor photography and videotaping are not permitted onboard RTC.** The graduation ceremony is held indoors, so ample photo/video taking is permitted in the ceremonial drill hall.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT:** If you are law enforcement and are required to carry a weapon at all times as a condition of your service; please contact Great Lakes Police Department, Deputy Chief Knapp at [james.b.knapp@navy.mil](mailto:james.b.knapp@navy.mil) or [\(847\) 688-5555](tel:8476885555) well in advance of your visit to meet requirements for doing so on a military installation.

- When returning your sailor in the evening to RTC **(GATE 6 ILLINOIS STREET)** the above rules also apply. Allow plenty of time to get your sailor back. **Make sure you and all occupants have graduation tickets if you plan on driving them back inside RTC on Friday evening. Also returning your sailor to Gate 8 (OHIO STREET) is an option. DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR SAILOR ON THE HIGHWAY.**
- Make sure your sailor has his/her I.D., rain coat, Liberty Card and locker keys when they return to RTC.
- Follow the guard's instructions. All drivers **must stop at the stop sign** and await the guards signal to proceed forward. **Have everyone's identification and graduation tickets available for the guards.**
- Do not jump the lines to get into the base. Individuals who do so will be denied access and returned to the end of the line.
- Do not, **REPEAT DO NOT**, drop off your sailor on the highway. If the line is too long, be patient. You will be subject to a ticket and your sailor will be reprimanded if they are let out of the vehicle while in the line. If the line is long, USE GATE 8 (OHIO STREET) to drop off your sailor.

**Finally** – drive defensively. Keep your distance and obey the speed limits. The City of North Chicago, in the interest of community safety, **strictly enforces the 30 MPH speed limit** on Buckley Road.

This chapter includes all the information you will need to visit your recruit for graduation, including the schedule of events and directions to the Recruit Family Welcome Center. Please review the information carefully. If you have additional questions not covered in this chapter, you may get in touch with RTC via the [contact page](#)

### Pass-In-Review Access List:

RTC issues tickets for the graduation ceremony. Please coordinate with your Recruit as only the Recruits may place names on the list. RTC can neither change these names nor release the names of those on the list. **Recruits ARE NOT authorized to place additional guests' names under another recruit's name.** All names provided by recruits undergo a security check via Naval Intelligence, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, The Office of Personnel Management, Federal Investigative Services (OPM-FIS), The Defense Security Service (DSS) and other agencies to protect our recruits.

### ALL GUESTS 3 YEARS AND OLDER MUST HAVE GRADUATION TICKETS AND HAVE IDENTIFICATION THAT MATCHES THE TICKETS.

- **No exceptions** will be made for active duty, reserve service members, or retired military personnel.
- Everyone **must pick up their individual tickets** – **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Children age 2 and younger do not need to be listed on the access list and will not count toward the maximum number of guests.
- **Please do not call or e-mail RTC for additional seats.** Those who do not have tickets will be denied access to the base and **MUST** remain off base and meet with their Sailor once he or she commences off base daytime liberty. The Navy does not have a designated waiting area, nor do they have a standby line. **NO ticket – No Entrance – No Exceptions, DON'T lose your ticket.**

The recruit graduation ceremony, also known as Pass-In-Review, is a formal military ceremony which honors your recruit's hard work and dedication to a new way of life, and ties together the future of the Navy with long-held Naval traditions and customs. Please dress for success.

## Graduation Ceremony Tickets and Guest Policy

### STEP 1: Fill out the security access form you received from your recruit

**GUEST SECURITY ACCESS FORM:** If you are going to be attending the graduation ceremony, please fill out the security access form, **maximum of 3 or 4 guests per form depending on number of divisions graduating**, and return to your recruit, (using the recruit's address provided in the letter you received from them) according to the instructions on the form. **Forms can also be downloaded by clicking ---** → [here](#). Children under 3 years of age do **NOT** count toward the maximum number of guests and do not need to be listed. **ALL GUESTS 3 AND OLDER MUST BE LISTED ON THE ACCESS LIST, INCLUDING MILITARY GUESTS (ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE, RETIRED, VET).**

**GRADUATION CEREMONY SPACE LIMITATIONS:** Recruit Training Command may issue up to **FOUR** tickets for the graduation ceremony, per recruit. The maximum number of allowed guests is based on safety regulations and the fire code for the drill hall, where the indoor ceremony takes place. Again, recruits are permitted to invite up to **FOUR** guests to graduation, **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE AUTHORIZED** for additional guests. **There will be times, due to the number of recruits graduating, that number may be reduced to THREE, so please pay attention to the information you received from your recruit in their initial letter home. Please do not call for additional seats!**

**ONLY YOUR RECRUIT CAN CHANGE THE GRADUATION CEREMONY ACCESS LIST:** Your recruit will be able to make changes to the access list. The last opportunity to make changes will be the week before graduation. If there is a change to be made to the access list (such as a name spelled incorrectly, name-swap, etc....) **please communicate any changes to your recruit by mail well in advance.** Recruit Training Command staff cannot change these names or release the names of those on the list. **Please do not call to verify receipt of security forms, only your recruit can verify that.**

## **STEP 2: Plan your travel itinerary**

**ACCOMMODATIONS & TRANSPORTATION:** The U.S. Navy does **NOT** provide accommodations, air or vehicle transportation, or shuttle service. Please read further in this guide regarding taxi service from the airport.

## **STEP 3: Pick up your tickets for the graduation ceremony**

**TICKETING:** Everyone who is planning on attending a graduation ceremony **MUST** personally obtain a ticket, which will be distributed at the Recruit Family Welcome Center the week of your recruit's graduation. Tickets are free of charge, but you must have valid photo ID to obtain your ticket (driver's license, state ID, military ID, passport, or, for minors, a student ID, driver's permit, SSN card, birth certificate). Once you receive your ticket do **NOT** lose it, as this will be the only ticket you will receive. These tickets are not transferable and are the only means to access the base for attendees.

**WELCOME CENTER ADDRESS/GPS:** Navy Exchange (NEX) Burkey Mall, **2650 Green Bay Road North Chicago, IL 60088** (Do NOT use generic terms such as NEX, Recruit Training Command or Naval Station Great Lakes).

### **RECRUIT FAMILY WELCOME CENTER HOURS:**

**Thursday [10:00 AM to 7:30 PM] and Friday [5:30 AM to 8:30 AM]**

**\*\*Certain federal holidays may require adjusting days and times.**

**Please refer to the website for those specific updates\*\***

Plan accordingly so each person can check-in to receive a ticket for the graduation ceremony. **If you don't have a ticket, you will be denied entry to the base.** Tickets will only be issued to guests who the graduating recruit has verified will be attending. Please ensure those who check-in to receive their graduation tickets are the same as those who were listed on the security form.

**\*\*DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE BASE WITHOUT FIRST PICKING UP YOUR TICKET\*\***

## **STEP 4: Attending the graduation ceremony**

**ARRIVING:** Once the gates open to the public, it will take some time to clear security at the gate, so please plan accordingly. Visitors 18+ will be required **to present valid photo ID** (driver's license, state ID card, passport, military ID card). Minors, who can't produce one of the forms of ID listed above, must present either a school ID, driver's permit, copy of birth certificate, or Social Security card.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

- 6:30 am: RTC gate opens to guests.
- 7:00 am: Ceremonial drill hall doors open to guests.
- 8:45 am: All guests must be seated. Ceremonial drill hall doors close, no further entry for guests.
- 9:00 am: Pass-In-Review commences.
- 9:20 am: Divisions arrive.
- 10:30 am: Pass-In-Review concludes.

**\*Please plan on arriving at least 1.5 hours before the ceremony, which begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.**

**WALKING ON BASE:** Pedestrians may walk onto the base using the gate adjacent to the METRA train station (Gate 8). Shuttles, taxis, and shared rides from hotels will drop you off in the parking lot adjacent

to Gate 8. Once on base, approximately a quarter mile from the gate to the entrance of Recruit Training Command's Visitor Center (USS YORKTOWN).

**DRIVING ON BASE:** A driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance or rental car agreement and graduation ticket must be ready to present to security at all access points. Once on base, attendees will be directed to park in the parking structure adjacent to Recruit Training Command's Visitor Center (USS YORKTOWN). Please obey the following while driving on base:

- No cell phone usage while driving on base!
- Seat belts are always required for all drivers/passengers
- Motorcycle drivers/riders **MUST have** proper protective clothing/equipment such helmet, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and over the ankle hard-soled boots.
- Recent graduates are prohibited from operating motor vehicles, including motorcycles, and are **NOT** allowed to be a passenger on a motorcycle.

**MULTIPLE SEARCHES POSSIBLE:** All graduation attendees are required to enter through Recruit Training Command's Visitor Center, for security screening, prior to entering the ceremony itself. Every person, bag, and vehicle on the base is subject to search. Metal detectors and other security devices are in use onboard Recruit Training Command.

- **ITEMS PERMITTED INTO GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Small bag/personal item (purse, satchel, etc....), small diaper bag, small camera bag, and personal wheelchair or walker. Strollers and car seats are allowed but discouraged due to space limitations (you may leave them in your car).
- **ITEMS NOT PERMITTED INTO GRADUATION CEREMONY:**
  - Large bags, backpacks, luggage, posters, signs/banners, large tripods, gift bags of any size, and flowers.
  - Alcohol, illegal drugs, knives or weapons will be confiscated by security. Any person found with these items will NOT be permitted to enter the ceremony.

**NO WEAPONS!** Weapons possession on federal installations is highly regulated and those in violation are subject to arrest and prosecution.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT:** If you are law enforcement and are required to carry a weapon at all times as a condition of your service; please contact Great Lakes Police Department, Deputy Chief Knapp at [james.b.knapp@navy.mil](mailto:james.b.knapp@navy.mil) or [\(847\) 688-5555](tel:8476885555) well in advance of your visit to meet requirements for doing so on a military installation.

Please communicate via mail with your recruit well before the final week of training to be sure the right names are on the list and to note any changes.

### **Departure from Recruit Training Command (RTC)**

Newly graduated Sailors who will attend advanced training (**"A" School**), **OR CS Rates, Or Pre-Special Operations Rates**) at Great Lakes, will transfer immediately after graduation. Those who will attend (**"A" School**) out of state may depart the following day after graduation. Please discuss liberty with your recruit during their phone calls home and be sure to ask them when they are departing Recruit Training Command for their next assignment. Recruit Training Command Public Affairs does not have access to individual schedules. Only your recruit and his/her supervisor know their specific liberty schedule. Ensure that your recruit writes down the following items and gives it to you at graduation if they are attending "A" school outside of Great Lakes.

- a. Time they are getting on the bus.
- b. What airport are they going to?
- c. What time is their flight.

## Graduation Streaming Live

Watch the recruits graduate live at 08:45 Central Standard Time **GRADUATION DAY**.

Follow the link and join the chat: <http://navylive.dodlive.mil/> ( The video will display under Live Events during broadcast.)

## Honor Graduates

**[Click here to see this week's list of honor graduates](#)**

## Recruit Review Graduation

***Each Award Winner will receive a Letter of Commendation from the Commanding Officer in recognition of their superlative achievements during recruit training.***

**Cushions for seats** – seats are bleacher style. Recommend cushions be purchased at nearby stores for comfort. Division numbers located on floor pedestals - if you want to insure a seat in front of the division you must get there early. Graduation Hall opens at 7:00 AM. NOTE – check your surroundings prior to leaving the graduation hall. Your excitement may cause you to leave your camera or purse or wallet behind. **AGAIN, CHECK YOUR SURROUNDINGS BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HALL.**

**Guests with Disabilities** - Recruit Training Command will be happy to provide an on-site qualified interpreter for the graduation ceremony when a person with a disability requests the service prior to the event. Please **place your request with the Public Affairs Office as soon as possible via e-mail at [rtc.pao@navy.mil](mailto:rtc.pao@navy.mil) or via phone at (847) 688-2405.**

Use of wheelchairs and/or manually/auto powered mobility aids are authorized onboard RTC. RTC provides wheelchair spaces and a companion seat in a special seating area in the ceremonial drill hall. RTC has wheelchairs available on a first-come, first-served basis which will only be used to transport guests through the check-in process and after the ceremony to their vehicle or transportation service.

**Strollers must be checked** in at the graduation hall. If you require handicapped parking, please show your parking placard to security staff and you will be directed to the appropriate parking area. Service animals with proper documentation are allowed.

*This is a formal Military Ceremony and guest should dress appropriately. Although suits, dresses, and ties are not required, this is a proud day for you and your sailor. They will be in their dress uniform. Make them proud. All Military must be in their DRESS uniforms.*

## CHAPTER 10 – AFTER GRADUATION



There are UNOFFICIALLY 3 types of graduates.

It is important that you know these groups.

***NOTE: This is not an official Navy Classification. This is designed to help you better understand where and when your sailor must be returned after graduation.***

**GROUP 1.** This pertains to Departing “A” School Graduates who will ship to another base **OUTSIDE OF Great Lakes, (other than CS Rate or Undesignated)** on or after midnight, the day of graduation. This does not include those Sailors who will be going across the street for indoctrination prior to going to Ft. Lee VA for Culinary Services training or; Special Ops candidates.

**GROUP 2.** Temporary Holdover Unit (T.H.U. ship 17) staying at RTC until matters are resolved.

**GROUP 3.** Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) “A” School sailors, pre-Special Operations training, CS Rate Students.

### Group 1 Departing “A” School Graduates who ship to another base outside of Great Lakes.

- Departing Sailors who are going to “A” Schools outside Great Lakes normally leave on Saturday early morning. In some rare extreme cases, they may leave on Sunday. They will be available to you immediately following the Graduation Ceremony and must be returned to **RTC (GATE 6 or Gate 8) with enough time to be on their ship’s toe-line N.L.T. 21:00 hours (9:00 PM).** Check with your sailor – some ships has different return times. (see maps page for location). Please insure that they have their I.D. cards, locker key, I.D. Tags (dog tags) and rain coats. **If you are driving your sailor back on RTC that evening, EVERYONE IN THE VEHICLE MUST HAVE THEIR GRADUATION TICKETS IN ADDITION TO IDENTIFICATION, OR ACCESS WILL BE DENIED, AND THE VEHICLE WILL BE TURNED AROUND.**
- **NOTE: At Gate 8 there is an electronic entry for SAILORS only.** If you (the loved one) desires to walk on to RTC that evening, you must go through gate 6 and have your graduation tickets available. **Unaccompanied Sailors ONLY** can access through gate 8 after they swipe the barcode on the back of their I.D. If you plan on driving them back to the chapel, everyone in the vehicle must have the graduation tickets and I.D.

You can meet your sailor at the Airport and can give them their cell phones and laptops. No sailor’s may bring any electronics or non-issued gear back to RTC that Friday evening. Your sailor can get you a security pass from the Airline Counter. **DO NOT CALL THE AIRLINES OR THE USO.** Only your Sailor can get you a pass at the airport from the airline that he is traveling on, so you can spend additional time with your Sailor. **No Sailors are authorized to leave the airport under any circumstances.**

- **IMPORTANT** – Write to your sailor and tell them to write down the following either on a post card or in their notes:
  - a) What airport are they shipping out of? (you need to know this, so you can get to the right airport to see them off.
  - b) What time are they getting on the bus? (so, you can set a time to meet them).
  - c) What time is their flight.
- Park in the Short-term garage or hourly parking. Check with other families and try to share cost. Remember; **if you get a security pass (ISSUED WHEN YOUR SAILOR CHECKS INTO THE AIRLINE TICKET COUNTER)** you will be treated like a flying passenger and you will have to meet all FAA and TSA guidelines for flying. You can meet your sailor at the airport the next morning if you wish to spend more time with them before they depart. Your sailor will know at graduation time, **which airport** they are going to, **the time their bus departs from RTC**, and the **airline departure time**. Coordination is the key and a meeting place and time should be established.
- You **CANNOT** transport your sailor to the airport **nor are they allowed to leave the airport** once they have checked in, however; you may get a room for yourself at the **Hilton O'Hare** which is connected to **terminal 2** where the USO is located, so you can get a good night's sleep before you see your sailor off. Sailors are not allowed to stay at the Hilton. The restaurant at the Hilton is the only restaurant that is opened at 6:00 AM before security.
- The bus will drop off the sailors at **Door 2A-UL (terminal 2 UPPER LEVEL)** at O'Hare. Those flying out of **Midway** will be dropped off at **Entry # 1 UPPER LEVEL**. **NORMALLY – NO SAILORS SHIP OUT FROM MILWAUKEE**. Round trips to the airport to see your sailor off are available at a fair price. Contact me (847)212-2046 if you wish to use our services or to make reservations to meet your Sailor at the airport.
- Finally - if you plan to see your sailor off at O'Hare, the Extended Stay America which is located right next to the airport, is an additional option and has a great rate and has a free shuttle back and forth to the airport. Here is an example on how you can benefit from this.
- **SCENARIO** - Your sailor departs from Great Lakes at 00:30 (12:30 AM) on the bus from Great Lakes to O'Hare. You desire to meet him at O'Hare and give them their Phone/Laptop/x-box, etc... You don't have to arrive when the bus does however; you are going to be exhausted and want to see him/her later. Your flight departs also on Saturday let's say at 2:00 PM. So now you must decide - do I get up right after midnight and drive to O'Hare or do I leave in the AM - see him/her off and then catch my flight. Remember - you must still pay for your hotel room for Friday unless you check out before 11:30 AM. You are going to be exhausted!
- Here is what I tell parents at the meet and greet. "Check out of your Hotel on Friday and put your luggage in your car or give it to your cab driver to hold. Enjoy the day with your sailor and when you drop him off at 7:30 PM; go to the Extended stay at O'Hare or the Hilton. Now you can get a good night's sleep and either drive less than 4 minutes to the airport or take their shuttle (Extended Stay 1207 Touhy Ave) or walk 100 yards from the Hilton to Terminal 2. Spend time with your sailor and when they leave, you can either go back to your hotel or stay at the airport and catch your flight. Simple and less tasking on your part. I will explain this more in detail at the Meet and Greet.



- NOTE: There are **NO HOTELS attached to or at Midway Airport**. The closest hotel is ¾ of MILE from Midway.

## **GROUP 2. Temporary Holdovers staying at RTC SHIP 17.**

This group of sailors has fully graduated and must have additional processing or waivers prior to departure from RTC to their new assignment including those who assigned to “A” school across the street. Additional processing can include but is not limited to: *Reclassification, Medical Waivers, Security Clearances, Additional Medical Treatment, Administrative Waivers/Review, OR Awaiting “A” School date at a location other than Great Lakes or awaiting orders.* These sailors will have only a short time with you after graduation (about 30 minutes). They will return to their boot camp ships and will be out-processed and then moved to the T.H.U. **on RTC** for holdover in-processing. They will remain at RTC until matters are resolved or school dates assigned. They will have Liberty on Friday (*after in-processing which takes about 2 hours*) and on Saturday and Sunday. Check with them for their return times. **They must be returned to RTC GATE 6 or Gate 8 each night - Normally N.L.T. 21:00 hrs. (9:00 PM).** **CHECK WITH YOUR SAILOR!!!** If you are driving on RTC – you must have your graduation tickets.

## **GROUP 3 GREAT LAKES “A” SCHOOL STUDENTS \*\* MAJOR CHANGE\*\***

These groups of sailors have fully graduated and **ARE NOT HOLD OVER’S** and will be transferred across the street to the NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND (NSTC) for either “A” school or follow on Special Ops pre-training or indoctrination. This also applies to those who have a rate of CS and will go to Ft. Lee, Virginia for their culinary service training.

These sailors will have only a short time with you after graduation (about 20-30 minutes). They will return to their boot camp ships, eat lunch and will be out-processed and then transported across the street to **THE MAIN GATE (GATE 1) (NSTC) FOR THEIR “A” SCHOOL IN-PROCESSING.** The In-processing takes about 3 to 5 hours and **they normally won’t be available** for pick up until **2:30 PM TO 4:30 PM.**

**The sailors will be marched out to the museum and you will sign out your sailor for the remaining of the day or weekend. See map**

## **MAJOR CHANGE 2/8/19 \*\* NEW POLICY**

On 2/8/19 the Navy instituted a change to better assist the families on Graduation weekend. This change **is currently in the test phase and can be revoked anytime** if sailors abuse the program. Traditionally, sailors needed to be signed out/in on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 sailors were **GRANTED WEEKEND LIBERTY WITH THEIR FAMILIES** until Sunday evening if a responsible adult signed them out. There was no need to return the sailor on Friday night or sign them OUT/IN ON Saturday and Sunday. Again, **THIS IS A TEST** and if the Navy decides to re-institute the old policy, please follow the directions below. Please ensure that your sailor is returned on time and allow enough time for the long lines at Gate 1.

**OLD POLICY \*\* highlighted in blue currently suspended**

**On Saturday and Sunday and Holidays, you MUST SIGN YOUR SAILOR OUT AT THEIR SHIPS**

They will remain at **NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND (a.k.a. NSTC)** until graduation from “A” School or pre-Special Ops Training or indoctrination. They will have Liberty on Friday (after in-

processing) until 10:00 PM and on Saturday & Sunday and holidays from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Check with your sailor – each ship has different rules regarding return times.

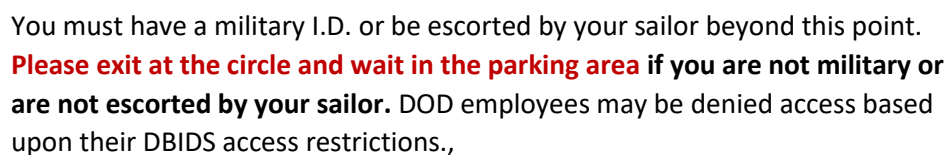
Check with them for their return times. They must be returned to **NSTC-GATE #1** every night (**no overnight liberty**) N.L.T. 21:30 hrs. (9:30 PM) to ensure that they have enough time to be on their ship N.L.T. than 22:00 hrs. (10:00 PM).

**\*\* NO CHANGE TO THE FOLLOWING\*\*** You may drive your sailor to his ship if **everyone in the vehicle has a valid I.D. and is properly seat belted**. No graduation tickets are needed when your Sailor accompanies you, or if you have a valid Military I.D. when driving them back to the “A” school base.

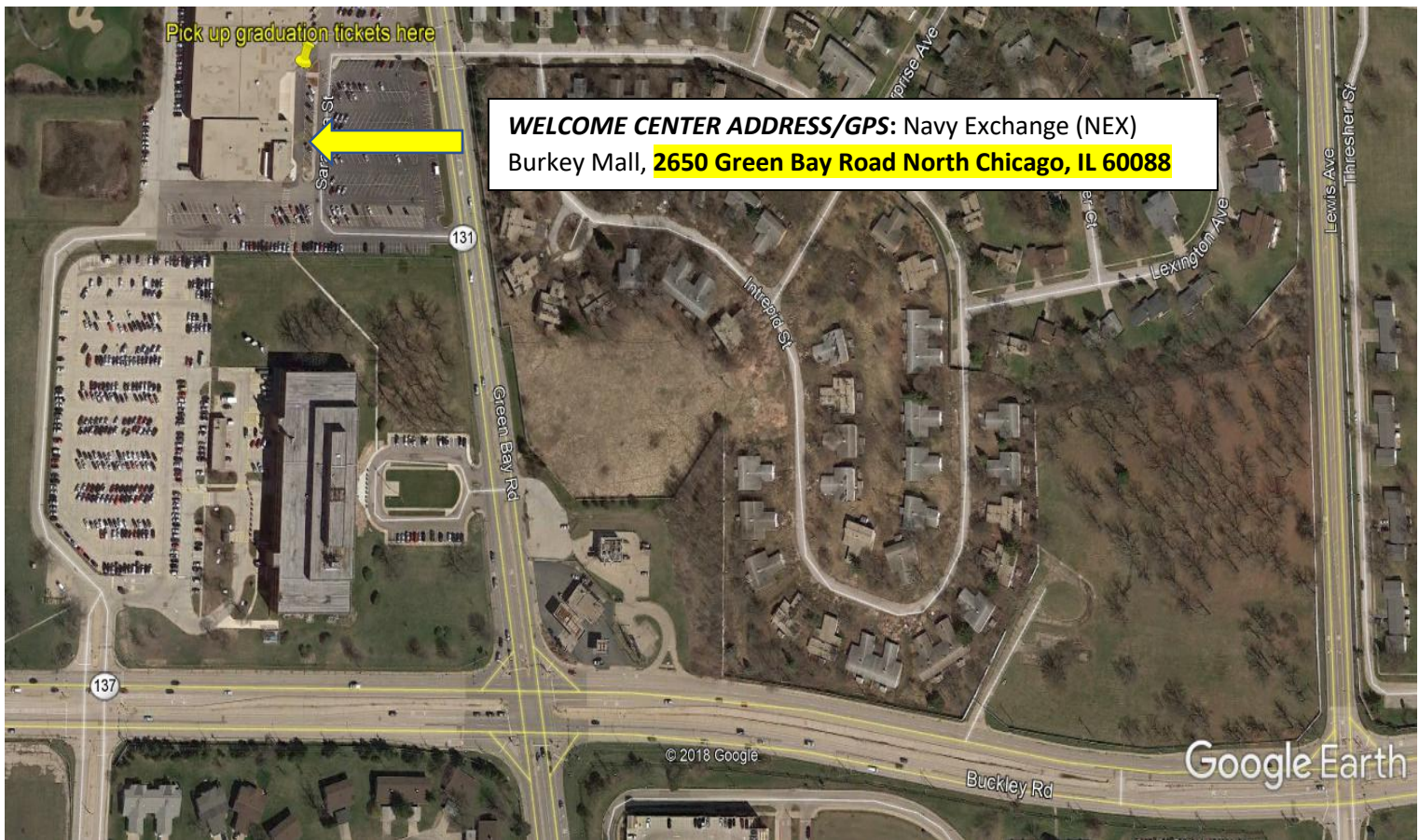
**To access the main gate without your Sailor you must possess a VALID MILITARY I.D. or Military Dependent I.D.** if you do not have the I.D. as mentioned above, you must meet your sailor at the MAIN GATE (Farragut Ave), and he/she will escort you into the base to sign them out. **REMEMBER** – the current security requirement is 100% I.D. check. All passengers and/or visitors must have a valid – unexpired I.D. to access the gates. Instruct your sailor to meet you at the museum. The visitor center is small and does not offer refreshments’ like the museum does.

[See next page for maps](#)

## SET YOUR GPS TO FARRAGUT AVENUE – GREAT LAKES









## **CHAPTER 12 – HELPFUL LINKS AND ON-LINE BROCHURES.**

Everything you need to plan for if you are going to tour Chicago or Waukegan – If you notice a broken link – please let me know.

**Ship Challenge Coins** and other goodies [www.pirgifts.com](http://www.pirgifts.com) (EBAY SITE TO ORDER)

**Historic Waukegan and Waterfront.** <http://www.waukeganweb.net/index.aspx?NID=31>

City of North Chicago <http://www.northchicago.org/>

Chicago <http://www.choosechicago.com>

City Events <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en.html>

Great Lakes official face book page -  
<https://www.facebook.com/NavalStationGreatLakes>

NSTC GREAT LAKES OFFICIAL WEB SITE – <http://www.navy.mil/local/tscgl/>

RTC OFFICIAL WEBSITE - <http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil>

RTC OFFICIAL FACE BOOK PAGE  
<https://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruitTrainingCommand>

LAKE COUNTY OFFICIAL VISITORS WEB SITE  
<http://www.visitlakecounty.org>

METRA (RAIL ROAD) <http://metrarail.com/metra/en/home.html>

MILWAUKEE VISITORS GUIDE <http://city.milwaukee.gov/home>

### **RESTAURANTS THAT OFFER FREE MEALS TO SAILORS ON GRADUATION DAY.**

**CAFÉ POMIGLIANO** <http://www.cafepomigliano.com>

Ruth Chris <http://www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locations/northbrook/>  
Check first when making reservations

Jimmy's Char House <http://www.jimmyscharhouselibertyville.com> Check with them first

Stevens Steak House <http://www.stevensofgurnee.com> Check with them first

**Discounted Restaurants** – PRIMO IN GURNEE - <https://primogurnee.com/>  
make a reservation and ask to speak with Elliott – normally \$25.00 savings if dinner bill exceeds \$125.00 Mention that you are here for the Navy Graduation

## **GIFTS AND GOODIES FOR LOVED ONES**

CLICK HERE **GREAT GIFTS** and **CHALLENGE COINS**

*(Meet and Greet Supporter they provide challenge coins for raffle)*

## **CHAPTER 13 – IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND WHAT TO IF AN EMERGENCY ARISES WHILE YOUR LOVED ONE IS AT BOOT CAMP OR NSTC.**

1. If there is an emergency or a death in the family, contact the American Red Cross immediately. Please have your sailor's name and social security number and boot camp address ready.  
<http://www.redcross.org> or call Toll free **1-800-733-2767** or the **Chicago office (312) 729-6100**
- a **BOOT CAMP PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE** – 847-688-2405 OR VISIT  
<http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/contact.html>
- b **NSTC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE 847-688-2201** (“A” SCHOOL STUDENTS)
- c **GREAT LAKES HISTORY AND FUN FACTS**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval\\_Station\\_Great\\_Lakes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Station_Great_Lakes)

## **CHAPTER 14 – SHORT CUTS TO GRADUATION.**

### **SHORT CUT DIRECTIONS**

**GPS ADDRESS 11025 Downey Rd., North Chicago IL 60064**  
**Or USE Metra Station Great Lakes GPS**

**FROM THE NORTH** – Take either Green Bay Road, or Hwy 41(Skokie Blvd), or Hwy 43 (Waukegan road) SOUTH to 22<sup>nd</sup> street (Martin Luther King Blvd), turn LEFT heading east for about 1 mile. Once you pass Commonwealth Ave, turn right at the next intersection (Hwy 137 – Bobby E. Thompson expressway). **Stay in left lane** and continue about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and you will see the train station (OHIO STREET).

**REMEMBER stay in the left lane** and cross the intersection and head into the gate. Have I.D.s ready.

**FROM THE SOUTH** – Take either Green Bay Road, or Hwy 41(Skokie Blvd), or Hwy 43 (Waukegan road) NORTH to 22<sup>nd</sup> street (Martin Luther King Blvd), turn right heading east for about 1 mile. Once you pass Commonwealth Ave, turn right at the next intersection (Hwy 137 – Bobby E. Thompson expressway). Stay in left lane and continue about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and you will see the train station. **REMEMBER stay in the left lane** and cross the intersection and head into the gate. Have I.D.s ready.

**FROM THE WEST** – Take Buckley Road (RT 137) to Hwy 41. Turn Left onto Hwy 41 and go one light to 22<sup>nd</sup> street (Martin Luther King Drive) and turn right and head east until **HWY 137 Bobby E. Thompson Expressway**, turn right and head straight into Ohio Street (**REMEMBER STAY IN LEFT LANE**)

## **CHAPTER 15**

### **GREAT LAKES “A” SCHOOL INFORMATION**

- A.** While your sailors are stationed here for either their “A” school or PRE-SO or CS training, there are a several items you need to know. **The most important item is - NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND are permitted to be brought on base.**
- B.** Access to the Navy Service Training Command also known as NSTC, is restricted. **Proper-unexpired identification is required for entry.** Only authorized Active Duty, Reserve, Military Retired (with DOD Retiree I.D.) and their dependents (with a DOD Dependent I.D.), and those who have Common Access Cards (CAC), and military sponsored guest, are allowed access to the Great Lakes Naval Service Training Command (Gate 1). All others **must be escorted** by an authorized person and have a valid-unexpired identification. Veterans, who possess a “**Veteran Card**” **are not authorized access unless they are escorted by an authorized member.**
- C.** Only properly vetted commercial vehicles (Taxi Cabs, Vendors) are authorized access into Great Lakes. Share Ride companies such as Uber, Lyft, Sidecar, Door Dash, Drizly, Sherpa Share (**also known as Transportation Network Companies**) **ARE NOT AUTHORIZED** inside the base access and cannot pick up or drop off inside the base. If any Military, Military Dependents, or civilians use these companies to gain access into a restricted base, they could be subject to UCMJ action or DOD civil citations or fines for violation of security protocol. See chapter 18 for Taxi cab passenger “Bill of Rights”
- D.** Guest of authorized persons must be escorted always. On liberty days, after a sailor is returned to their ship and signed in, the guest must take the most direct route to exit the base and does not need to be escorted off base.
- E.** Persons, military or civilian, walking or driving on base, cannot use hand held devices while they are in motion.
- F.** No photography or video recording at any time on base, including at the Visitor Center. Video and camera recording are authorized inside buildings unless otherwise prohibited.
- G.** Guest of Sailors are not authorized beyond the quarterdeck of their ship.
- H.** During Colors, Retreat, and the National Anthem, **all vehicles must stop.** Military personal outside of buildings or outside of vehicles, must stand fast and render proper salutes and military courtesy. Civilians must render proper respect by standing. Disabled persons who cannot stand should be seated.
- I.** Sailors in uniform **must wear reflective belts** when walking on the base in accordance with base regulations.
- J.** Student sailors are prohibited from possessing or having alcohol on their person, or in their vehicles, including their backpacks or sea bags.
- K.** Students cannot operate motor vehicles on base unless they have **Live-Ashore privileges or a driving chit.**
- L.** Smoking is permitted only in designated areas on NSTC.

**Students will receive their initial briefing when they transfer over to the “A” school. It is imperative that they know and follow all the rules. This is not a complete set – there are other restrictions and regulations’ that apply. For the latest information, see the links below.**



## OTHER Helpful official links

### OFFICIAL BOOT CAMP WEBSITE

[www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\\_great\\_lakes.html](http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns_great_lakes.html)

<http://ngis.dodlodging.net>

<http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site>

<https://www.history.navy.mil>

### UNOFFICIAL HELPFUL LINKS.

[www.mynavytaxi.com/goodies.html](http://www.mynavytaxi.com/goodies.html)

[WWW.NAVYDEP.COM](http://WWW.NAVYDEP.COM)

[http://mybaseguide.com/navy/21/ns\\_great\\_lakes](http://mybaseguide.com/navy/21/ns_great_lakes)

<https://www.uso.org/centers/united-states>

<http://www.visitlakecounty.org>

## Chapter 16

Common questions and answers.

**For new military spouses/dependents see chapter 17.**

**Q. My recruit is in RCU (Recruit Convalescent Unit) or on hold to pass a fitness test (FIT). Are we authorized a visit?**

**A.** A recruit who is in RCU or FIT is still in training, therefore are not authorized visits. If you received a phone call from your recruit stating they have transferred to RCU/FIT, please note you will not receive another phone call from your recruit until they complete their training requirements. Recruits are only granted phone calls when they have a change in status, meaning they are going to graduate. You should not plan on attending the graduation if you have not received a phone call from your recruit stating they have met the requirements and will be graduating.

**Q. My recruit failed their physical fitness test. When will he/she graduate or what is their status?**

**A.** While recruits are listed in this status; they are not scheduled to graduate. They will not get another phone call until they have passed their test. When the status of a recruit changes for failing their fitness test, the recruit will know how their training is going to be affected. Some could be placed in our Fitness Improvement Team (FIT); others could be set back in training THREE or FOUR weeks. Again, your recruit will know into which category they are placed.

**Q. My recruit failed their swim qualification. When will he/she graduate or what is their status?**

**A.** While recruits are listed in this status; they are not scheduled to graduate. They will not get another phone call until they have passed their test. If they pass before their original graduation date, they will participate in their final graded evolution, Battle Stations 21. If they pass their test after their original division has graduated, they will then go directly on to "A" School. They will not participate in a graduation ceremony as their original division would have already graduated and we do not wish to delay their training any further.

**Q. When will I receive tickets/passes to graduation?**

**A.** Tickets will be issued at the Recruit Family Welcome Center the week of your recruit's graduation. Please follow the instructions you received in the mail and fill out/return the security forms to your recruit, so your names are placed on the access list. **Recruits cannot obtain additional 'seats' from other recruits.**

**Q. I am not sure I am on the access list. Can you find out and make changes if I am not?**

**A.** It is the recruit's decision whom to place on the access list. Please communicate with your recruit well before the final week of training to be sure the right names are on the list. Please follow the instructions on the security forms you received in the mail from your recruit.

**\*PLEASE DO NOT CALL FOR ADDITIONAL SEATS\***

**Q. How much weekend liberty will my recruit receive?**

**A.** Recruits staying in Great Lakes for their A School will check into their new command immediately after graduation. That check-in process can take up to five hours. You may wait at Gate 1, Farragut Avenue the Main Side Visitors center. **The Great Lakes "A" Schools ARE NOT** located onboard Recruit Training Command. Your recruit will be able to contact you when they have completed the check-in process. They will receive guidance regarding their exact liberty hours upon checking into their "A" school.

If your recruit will be attending A School out of state (except for CS Rate), they will fly out the day following graduation. There may be a delay if there is a flight availability issue; however, only your recruit is permitted to give you their exact flight/departure information. Their graduation daytime liberty hours will be determined by their Recruit Division Commander (RDC) prior to commencing liberty and can vary by ship.

Please ensure your recruit returns to RTC with adequate time for their arrival to the barracks prior to expiration of liberty.

**Q. Where is the Recruit Family Welcome Center located?**

**A.** The Recruit Family Welcome Center is located at the Navy Exchange Burkey Mall, 2650 Green Bay Rd. North Chicago, IL. 60088.

**Q. What are the hours of operation for the Recruit Family Welcome Center?**

**A.** The Recruit Family Welcome Center is open Thursday [10:00 AM to 7:30 PM], and Friday [5:30 AM to 8:30 AM]. It is **HIGHLY** recommended those attending the ceremony do not wait until the morning of graduation to obtain your tickets. \*\*\* Certain federal holidays may require adjusting days and times. Please refer to the command website for those specific updates. \*\*\*

**Q. I received a letter from my recruit with a security form, what do I need to do?**

**A.** The security form you received must be filled according to the instructions on the form and **returned to your recruit within seven days of the postmark.** This will ensure the recruits' graduation ceremony attendees are properly accounted for. Again, this needs to be returned to your recruit at the mailing address they provided in the letter you received. This is also the same address you will use to write your recruit while they are attending boot camp.

**Q. The letter I received from my recruit says only up to four guests may attend?**

**A.** The graduation ceremony occurs indoors. Due to safety regulations and fire code, Recruit Training Command is only allowed a certain number of people inside the building at one time. For this reason, we must restrict the number of attendees for the graduation ceremony. Please be aware, although we can allow up to four guests, there may be times that number is reduced due to the number of graduating recruits. The enclosed security form will state the number of guests allowed.

**\*PLEASE DO NOT CALL FOR ADDITIONAL SEATS\***

**Q. What items can we bring or not bring to graduation?**

**A.** All persons, articles and vehicles are subject to security searches. Metal detectors and other security devices are in use onboard Recruit Training Command. Expect a delay at the security checkpoints due to this added security requirement.

**ITEMS PERMITTED INTO GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Small bag/personal item (purse, satchel, etc....), small diaper bag, small camera bag, and personal wheelchair or walker. Strollers and car seats are allowed but discouraged due to space limitations (you may leave them in your car).

**ITEMS NOT PERMITTED INTO GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Large bags, backpacks, luggage, posters, signs/banners, gift bags of any size, and flowers. Alcohol, illegal drugs, knives or weapons will be confiscated by security. Any person found with these items will NOT be permitted to enter the ceremony.

***NO WEAPONS! Weapons possession on federal installations is highly regulated and those in violation are subject to arrest and prosecution.***

**Q. My Sailor is being placed in the Temporary Holding Unit. What does this mean?**

**A.** Sailors placed in this unit, are Sailors who have graduated from Recruit Training Command and are awaiting follow-on orders to their school. The reasons for placing a graduated Sailor on hold can vary from clearance issues, needing a special physical, or sometimes it is as simple as waiting for a class to fill up.

These Sailors, however, are not just waiting around. They follow a daily schedule. Many maintain work assignments while awaiting their follow-on orders, to include: manning the Ship, acting as escorts for recruits transiting to medical or legal appointments, or performing office duties at locations throughout the base.

They are also housed separately from other recruits and can enjoy liberty and are permitted to leave the base for recreation or for visiting with family members. They may also call home during their non-duty hours.

**Q. How can I get a tour of RTC?**

**A.** Due to the high operational tempo of RTC, The Command cannot support personal tours at this time.

**Q. Where can I find additional information? Click this link**

<http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/faq.html>

## **CHAPTER 17 DEPENDENT I.D. CARDS.**

Welcome spouses to our new Navy family. The following information is **VERY IMPORTANT**, and you should take the time to read this.

1. If you are married to a military member your sailor should have procured the paper work required for you to receive a **DOD DEPENDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD**. Your sailor should have enrolled you in the **DEERS network and Tricare**.
2. You should have a **“power of attorney”** in your possession prior to your sailor shipping out.

Why is this important? All financial institutions, schools, physicians, require a “power of attorney” be on file should you have to intercede on your sailor’s behalf.

If you got married while your sailor was in the delayed entry program, **the sailor must take the ORIGINAL marriage certificate, your birth certificate, and your social security card (with your new name) indicated on it, when he ships out from the MEPS.** The career counselors **ARE REQUIRED TO UPDATE THE PAGE 1 & 2 of the DD FORM 1966 prior to them shipping out to boot camp.**

Failure to do so could result in benefits such as health care, additional allowances, and entry into government facilities being denied. Your sailor is also required to bring all adoption papers and or birth certificates for children, so they are added to DEERS.

If your sailor was married to you prior to entry into the delayed entry program, make sure that his records are **noted as being married.** If records indicate not married, follow procedures above.

Here are some helpful **OFFICIAL LINKS** so you as a military spouse/dependent have no issues.

***Again, welcome to our military family. One Team – One Family.***

<https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS/RequiredDocuments>

<https://tricare.mil/forms/>

<https://www.tricare.mil/DEERS>

<https://tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS>

<https://tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility>

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/index.jsp>

<https://www.tsp.gov/index.html>

## CHAPTER 18 Taxi cab passenger “Bill of Rights”

Please pass on to your sailor if they are assigned to NSTC for “A” school or follow on training such as PRE-Special ops, or CS Rates or Undesignated. If they need service, please give me and my team a chance to prove our worthiness. I can be reached at 847-212-0246.

We receive many complaints from families and sailors alike who have used other Taxi Cab companies **other than our team**. The following are excerpts from the North Chicago ordinances regarding taxi fares and procedures for recovery if you feel that you were overcharged or mistreated. In all cases, if you need to make a complaint you need proof such as; a receipt, date, time and place of pickup, date, time and place of drop off. **Call this number and ask to speak to the patrol supervisor 847.596.8774. Be prepared to discuss the above with back up documentation.**

**\*asterisked** items are actual excerpts from ordinances.

**The City of North Chicago ordinances pertaining to taxi fares can be found at**

[https://library.municode.com/il/north\\_chicago/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT5BULIRE\\_CH25V\\_EREBU\\_ARTBPUPAVE](https://library.municode.com/il/north_chicago/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT5BULIRE_CH25V_EREBU_ARTBPUPAVE)

See **5-25B-11: - RATES AND FARES:**

Here it is in simple language

1. There are flat rates to certain areas including the airports. Drivers can add \$1.00 for each passenger over one year old.
2. Other than the flat rates, **DRIVERS MUST RUN THE TAXI METER for your protection.**
  - \*These rates are from the City of North Chicago and the base to include housing to the following areas:
    - a. Flat rate – To O’Hare - \$50.00
    - b. Flat rate to Midway - \$85.00
    - c. Flat rate to Milwaukee Airport and downtown Milwaukee \$85.00
    - d. Flat Rate to Downtown Chicago \$75.00
    - e. Flat Rate to Gurnee \$20.00
    - f. Flat Rate to Vernon Hills \$25.00
3. \*For all travel **not covered** by subsection A-F above
  - a. Two dollars (\$2.00) upon hire for the first passenger and one dollar (\$1.00) for each additional passenger above the age of one year old;
  - b. Two dollars and forty cents (\$2.40) for each mile or fraction thereof that is traveled in the taxicab; and
  - c. Forty cents (\$0.40) for each one minute of waiting time or traffic delay.
  - d. Retail shuttle services **may not charge more than two dollars (\$2.00) per person per trip.** (Ord. No. 2010-56, § 11, 4-19-2010; Ord. No. 2010-83, § 6, 7-26-2010; Ord. No. 2011-120, § 3, 4-25-2011; Ord. No. 2012-41, §§ 1—3, 10-1-2012; Ord. No. 2013-01, §§ 1—3, 1-22-2013; Ord. No. 2014-19, § 2, 5-19-2014; Ord. No. 2016-41, § 1B., 12-5-2016)

# Bill of Rights

## **BILL OF RIGHTS FOR SAILORS AND GUEST DEPARTING FROM EITHER THE MAIN GATE, EPIC CENTER, OR RTC GATE 8. Please pass this on to your sailor.**

- a. Any passenger can choose any taxi cab they prefer. Pre-arranged pickups are encouraged.
- b. Pickups and drop offs are authorized **24/7** at the **Main Gate (Gate 1)** at the taxi circle located to the north of Museum. Other than the flat rates mentioned above, **the METER MUST BE RUN** for your protection.
- c. **On NSTC (MAIN GATE 1 ENTRANCE) (properly vetted cabs only – no RIDE SHARE or LIMOS allowed).**
- d. **The only authorized ON BASE pick up and drop off point** during the hours of 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Monday through Friday; and on Saturday, Sunday, and Federal Holidays, during the hours of 6:00 AM – through 10:00 PM, is located at the **EPIC CENTER, Building 525. Note: Only properly vetted vehicles can access the MAIN GATE for entry on base.** All passengers must have Military I.D. or a Dependent I.D. or be escorted by a military member; either retired or active, for access onto the Main Base. Other than the flat rates mentioned above, **the METER MUST BE RUN** for your protection.
- e. RTC taxi pickups and drop offs can **ONLY BE MADE** at Gate 8 (Ohio Street). **No pickups or drop offs are authorized at gate 6 (Illinois St)** For all travel other than the **FLAT RATES**, the meter must be run.
- f. **RIDE SHARED OR LIMOS ARE PROHIBITED** inside **any of the bases at any time**. Sailors or dependents, or any military, who use ride share companies to access **INSIDE** the base, are breaching security and **will be disciplined** under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)

*I want to thank you for taking the time to read this information. I look forward to seeing all the families at the Meet and Greet each night the day before graduation. If I can be of any assistance or you need taxi service, please call me at 847-212-0246 or email: [taxisarge@gmail.com](mailto:taxisarge@gmail.com) our website address is [www.mynavytaxi.com](http://www.mynavytaxi.com)*

*If you feel that this document was helpful, a small contribution for my efforts is appreciated and can be made via <https://paypal.me/navytaxi> it will show as “anchors aweigh transportation”. No PayPal account is needed. If you notice any broken links, please email me.*

*Regards, John Spadaro (A.K.A. Sarge)*

*Sergeant First Class,*

*United States Army Retired.*

*Serving those who serve us.*

*847-212-0246*

*Thank you to those who served in defense of our Great Nation and those who are currently standing watch over our beloved U.S.A. **One team – One fight***



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