

## NAVY BOOT CAMP GRADUATION PREPARATION AND SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND LOVED ONES.

This is a guide for Navy Families who will visit the Great Lakes Naval Station for the Passing In Review (P.I.R) also known as Boot Camp Graduation. The information contained herein is current as of the publication date and is subject to change without notice. This document is not indorsed by the United States Navy or any other U.S. Government agency and is not intended as an OFFICIAL UNITED STATES NAVY PUBLICATION.

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#### About me.

I entered the United States Army in 1971 from Brooklyn N.Y. I proudly served our country for 21 years 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 Meet and Greet.



We have traveled around the globe and we know how frustrating it is when you visit a place without any guidance. This is why I prepared this document. The information enclosed is based upon my thirty 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 Great Lakes Naval Station was the only military reservation in the area that had immediate housing available. We fell in love with the area and have seen the Navy 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 ahead and being aware of your surroundings.

My family and I welcome you to the area and hope you can attend our "meet and greet" the day before the P.I.R. It is very informative and fun. My wife and I purchase all the food from our personal funds so you can enjoy a buffet style meal. In 2015, we fed over twenty one thousand Navy loved ones. A voluntary contribution box is placed at the front of the buffet line. Your voluntary contribution helps my wife and I fund future meet and greets for the Navy families and also pay for the expenses that evening. The "meet and Greet is held at Lakehurst Events Center located at, 300 Lakehurst Road, Waukegan IL. They provide their facility at no charge to the Navy Families for the "Meet and Greet." That is their gift to our sailors and; they do this with us, 48 times a year.

Should you need low cost, reliable transportation from the airports to your hotel on this memorable occasion, please visit my website at <a href="https://www.mynavytaxi.com">www.mynavytaxi.com</a>. My taxi business helps support the meet and greet in addition to the kind contributions from those attending.

You may also pass this document on to the Navy Recruiter who was responsible for your loved ones future.

Welcome aboard and congratulations on your Sailor's Honor, Courage, and Commitment to our Great United States of America.

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#### **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 insure that you have a safe and enjoyable trip. Even some seasoned travelers make mistakes and forget essentials. I hope my Survival Guide answers your questions. If you have any questions on something I did not cover, feel free to call me at 847-212-0246 before 10:00 PM central time or email me at johnspadaro@att.net.

NOTE – Make sure your sailor makes arrangements 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. Those sailors who picked up their pictures prior to graduation must go back to their ships after the ceremony and retrieve the photos. Valuable time again is wasted.

### **Chapter 1**

#### PREPARATION FOR 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, not to mention getting them out of bed. You finally get home and start to wonder, what do I do now?

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 you will receive your Sailor's personal belonging. These are items they can't have in boot camp. I recommend that your recruit does not bring their cell phones or any personal items, they will only be sent back. All they really need is the clothes they are wearing, their I.D's, plenty of change for the pay phones or a phone card, and their confidence. The recruiter will normally supply a list of items needed and not needed.

You will receive a letter from your recruit within 2 weeks with the graduation date and the PASSWORD for printing out the GATE PASS. SAVE THIS LETTER!

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 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** and check the terms of travel insurance and cancellation fees.
- 2. Schedule taxi pick up at airport or train station with me and my team once you have your itinerary. **My phone number is (847)212-0246.** Our website is <a href="https://www.mynavytaxi.com">www.mynavytaxi.com</a> See airport rates at end of chapter 4. My team and I are a full service Taxi and Limo Company.
- 3. Schedule dog or house sitters and make arrangements for trash pick-up or hold.
- 4. Gather I.D.'s as indicated in Navy Family Guide (see last item). PLEASE make sure they are not EXPIRED. \*\* If your I.D. is expired, you may be denied access to aircraft and other public transportation and most importantly, \*\* YOU WILL be denied access to Naval Base and graduation. \*\*
- 5. 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.
- 6. Notify schools for children who will be absent.
- 7. Ask neighbors to hold mail or notify the U.S. Postal service.
- 8. Make a security sweep of the house. Insure that windows are locked, timers are set, and car and truck doors locked, water plants, adjust heat or air conditioning.
- 9. Check airlines policy regarding baggage charges and weight limits. \*\* This is a common uncalculated expense. \*\*
- 10. Cell phone chargers, laptops, and cell phones. Note fully charge all phones prior to leaving home.
- 11. Email forwarding for work if needed.
- 12. 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.
- 13. If you have a smart phone, download the **INRIX** free travel app. Great app to see traffic ahead of you. Don't forget **EZ-PASS or GPS.**
- 14. Carry enough cash for taxi, train, or buses. The metra train does not accept credit or debit cards on the train when the ticket booth is closed.
- 15. Most Rental Car Companies in this area do not accept **out of state** DEBIT cards without holding and additional \$200-\$400. 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.

- 16. 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 **SEVEN DAYS** to release your funds after you check out or return the car rental.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Bring your own car seats if necessary.
- 19. If driving know the Illinois rules. Click this link http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/motorist/rorts.html
- 20. Bring copies of auto insurance declaration, page if renting a car or driving.
- 21. Print out **GATE PASS** if you are DRIVING ON BASE. Bring your registration and proof of insurance if driving. No gate pass needed if using a taxi. See link here to print GATE PASS -> <a href="http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/consent1.html">http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/consent1.html</a> you will need a password!!! **The GATE PASS can only be used for access to** RTC gate number 8 for graduation and gate 6 when you return your sailor to RTC Friday evening. The Gate Pass is NOT VALID at any other gates or installations. The gate pass is only available for printing 10 days before the graduation date.
- 22. Your sailor will want their cell phones. You can bring them and they can use them after graduation. If they are staying here for training after boot camp, they can take their phones back on Friday night. If they are leaving Great Lakes for "A" school, they can get their cell phones/electronic gear at the airport. The airport **DOES NOT HAVE** any storage lockers.
- 23. Bring your sailors underwear.
- 24. Bring your sailors contact lenses or personal eyewear.
- 25. Bring them chewing gum they miss it.
- 26. Most hotels are pet friendly. If driving, bring the pets. They are family also.
- 27. Bring umbrella's check weather first http://www.chicagoweathercenter.com
- 28. Last but not least Download Navy Family Guide PDF here is the link <a href="http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/fam\_guide.html">http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/fam\_guide.html</a>

#### **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 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.

Secondly, your recruit may fail a portion of their training or get injured.

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 5** 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: <a href="http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-expands-airline-passenger-protections">http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-expands-airline-passenger-protections</a>

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 2:00PM to 7:00PM. It can take up to 1-3/4 hours to get to Waukegan. Not every airline fly's to Midway. Use Kayak.com and play around by changing arrival airports. The codes are — O'Hare (ORD), Midway (MDW), and Milwaukee (MKE). It is normally cheaper to fly in late on Wednesday night and depart early Monday morning.

Also it is advisable to travel on Wednesday because if there is a storm or any delays on Thursday, you may not make it to the graduation. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

If traveling from the north on AMTRAK, get off at the Glenview Station. You can take the **Metra MILWAUKEE DISTRICT LINE North** to Libertyville from the Glenview Station. A cab cost from Libertyville Station to your hotel cost around \$24.00. Vs. from Glenview it is approximately \$48.00-\$54.00.

If traveling from the south, east or west, on AMTRAK or on a Greyhound or Megabus, you can also take the metra **Milwaukee District** from **Union Station** and get off at the Libertyville stop. A cab cost from Libertyville Station to your hotel cost around \$24.00.

https://metrarail.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.

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:

- If you are going to rent a car 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 funds in addition to the rental.
  - b. The holdback charge is around \$200-400.
  - c. The funds are released when you return the car however; it may take 4-10 days for your bank to release these funds back to your account.
- 2. Each company has different policies make sure you inquire before you get there. Every week we have to rescue families who used a debit card. For peace of mind I recommend Budget/Avis rental car in Highland Park Illinois. They are military friendly and will bend over backwards for our families. The direct contact is Douglas Lima; his phone number is either 847-433-5529 or 847-266-1330. My team and I provide direct transportation from the airports to his location. It is less expensive to rent locally rather than at the airports.
- 3. Use the I-PASS option when renting. If you have your own I-PASS or EZ-PASS, 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 will only need the Gate Pass, rental documentation and your Drivers License to access the base. I always recommend that you bring your Insurance Card or Proof of insurance to save time and heart-aches.
- 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**

The Taxi Cabs are regulated by both the State of Illinois and the Municipality which they are licensed in. I personally own my own Taxi's. My team consists of some of the best drivers in the business that know the area and can treat you fairly. Please review the comments on the face book pages or on my website. http://www.mynavytaxi.com/testimonials.html .

If you need a taxi, please make a reservation on my website <a href="www.mynavytaxi.com">www.mynavytaxi.com</a> for pickups at the airport within 24 hours of your arrival please call me at 847-212-0246 in additional to making the reservation online. Reservations from Airports are a must to insure that we can accommodate you.

#### Here are the rules regarding taxi-fares.

- 1. If you take a City Cab from the airport taxi lines that was not a pre-arranged 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 a \$1.00 per passenger. So a city cab from O'Hare (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. REMEMBER These are ONE WAY FARES.
  - a. My Service options are far better than the city cab rates or the "SHUTTLE COMPANY RATES." Our rates include round trip to and from the Airport and a free one-way ride to graduation. We are fully insured and licensed to do business in the City of Chicago and the Suburbs.
  - b. O'Hare CAB rate \$99.00 for the cab- Not per person (max 6 passengers) which includes round trip to and from airport and a free ride to graduation, all tolls and airport departure tax.
  - c. <u>Midway CAB rate</u> \$159.00 **Not per person (max 6 passengers)** which includes round trip to and from airport and a free ride to graduation, all tolls and airport departure tax.
  - d. <u>Milwaukee CAB rate</u> \$159.00 **Not per person (max 6 passengers)** which includes round trip to and from airport and a free ride to graduation, all tolls and airport departure tax.
  - e. From Union Station or the Bus depot the rate is \$85.00 ONE WAY

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; is **OUTDATED.** 

Please check before you make reservations with a transportation company because certain taxi or limo services *are not authorized or Vetted to* 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.

- a. RIDE SHARE COMPANIES (NON-VETTED) ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO ACCESS INSIDE THE GREAT LAKES TRAINING CENTER GATES.
- b. Military and Civilians alike, who use <a href="UNAUTHORIZED DRIVERS">UNAUTHORIZED DRIVERS</a> or RIDE <a href="SHARE">SHARE</a> companies to gain access inside the base to drop them off , <a href="WILL">WILL</a> face disciplinary action because it is a BREACH OF SECURITY.
- c. My team is 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 24/7 at the main gate. Remember, the guest(s) of military must be escorted at all times while on Naval Facilities unless their guest(s) have a valid Military or military dependent I.D. See these additional links for information regarding your visit or on base access.

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\_great\_lakes/om/force\_protection.html

Note: If you feel that you can get a better deal elsewhere 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. You can always contract for a private van however, it is costly. Search Google for shuttle transportation companies and follow the prompts. Keep in mind that the shuttle companies will make multiple stops along the way and your travel time is extended.

Most Navy loved ones prefer "**PRE-ARRANGED SUBURBAN**" companies like ours 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.

#### <u>Chapter 5 – PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION</u>

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 station.

- From O'Hare take the <u>Blue line</u> 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 <u>Union Pacific North towards Kenosha and get off at</u> 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.
- 3. **From Milwaukee** NO public transportation available except private taxi/limo/shuttle.
- 4. <u>From Union Station</u> (AMTRAK) or Greyhound or Megabus, take the Milwaukee District Line north to Libertyville.
- Keep in mind that this will add time to your travel and the trains do not run at every hour – check the links here <a href="https://metrarail.com/maps-schedules">https://metrarail.com/maps-schedules</a> and also check the CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) times for trains running from the airport to the City. BLUE LINE CHICAGO from O'HARE <a href="http://www.transitchicago.com/blueline/">http://www.transitchicago.com/blueline/</a>,
  - From Midway use <a href="http://www.transitchicago.com/orangeline/">http://www.transitchicago.com/orangeline/</a> 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 make arrangements.





#### **CHAPTER 6 – HOTEL COMMON SENSE**

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 for you to 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:

- You want a hotel that offers a FULL BREAKFAST without an additional cost. Why? Most continental breakfast will not fill you up or are limited.
   ASK what their continental breakfast consist of.
- 2. Being close to the base really does not make a difference. Most hotels in Lake County are no more than 20 minutes from base.
- 3. Check the address of the hotel some advertise that they are only X miles away and in reality, they are over 10 miles away. CHECK CHECK CHECK. CAUTION: REMEMBER PAID advertisements can say anything 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.
- 4. I recommend the hotels that are close to 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 the meet and greet and you get more bang for your buck.
- 5. Check the reviews on <a href="www.mynavytaxi.com/testimonials.html">www.mynavytaxi.com/testimonials.html</a>, and 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. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/Navysupportgroup">https://www.facebook.com/groups/Navysupportgroup</a>
  - c. https://www.facebook.com/groups/327167160695549
  - d. https://www.facebook.com/groups/786122078090192
  - e. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/900Division">https://www.facebook.com/groups/900Division</a>
  - f. https://www.facebook.com/groups/Navyforfamily
  - g. https://www.facebook.com/NavalStationGreatLakes
  - h. https://www.facebook.com/groups/777845905588758
  - i. https://www.facebook.com/groups/696238853802964 (800 Divisions)
  - j. To join a face book group that graduates on your sailors date search facebook for the following "PIR MM-DD-YY" example "PIR 10-14-16"

- 6. Pay with a credit card. <u>Debit cards</u> are subject to holdbacks and it can take 4-10 days to have your funds available after checkout based upon your financial institution rules.
- 7. Book online some hotel chains have better rates than the so-called bargain websites. I personally like <a href="http://www.kayak.com">http://www.kayak.com</a>

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

The meet and greet for our Navy loved ones, is a private event that my wife and I sponsor the night before graduation. This event is by **invitation only**. If you would like to attend the event you must register at <a href="http://www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html">http://www.mynavytaxi.com/events.html</a>

- 1. Everyone is invited even though you may have forgotten to RSVP.
- 2. Children are allowed (they also get a certificate to give to their sailor at graduation)
- 3. All expenses for the meet and greet (food, labor, Sterno, supplies, etc.) are provide by my wife and I out of our personal funds. None of the food is donated it is all purchased from local restaurants and vendors. This is why we sell raffle tickets and pray for generous donations at the buffet table. We believe in paying forward and your kind support insures that the future Navy families have the opportunity to attend this gala event prior to graduation.
- 4. As stated above, no donation is required to eat however your generous heartfelt donations are needed to continue to do these events 48 weeks a year. Last year we provided free meals for over 21,000 Navy loved ones and we thank you in advance.
- 5. Baskets are not required however; they are needed to generate interest in raffle sales. They can be anything you wish to put together, make it interesting so people would want to WIN IT!
- 6. Dress is VERY CASUAL come as you like.
- 7. 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 and may not be aware of the event. Please spread the word.
- 8. 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 have to do is make sure the room is in order after the event and I provide all the food and labor.



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

When driving onto **Recruit Training Command** please have your driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and vehicle gate pass ready as you will not be admitted without them. If you will be driving a rental car, the vehicle gate pass, rental agreement and your driver's license will suffice. **All occupants of the vehicle must have their identification available.** 

ALL VISITORS driving on to RTC must present the vehicle gate pass. Currently the entrance for graduation is gate # 8 which is located on Ohio Street adjacent to the Metra Parking lot – The Gate pass is <u>ONLY VALID for RTC</u> and cannot be used at any other gate or installation in Great Lakes.

- No hand held cell phones are permitted for use by the driver.
- Seat belts must be worn at all times 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.
- Lock your vehicle and remember your parking location. Also don't forget your identification.
- Remember there are two check points for ID. One at the gate and one at the graduation hall. All vehicles and personnel are subject to search.
- Identification must not be expired. Military identification that is expired will be confiscated by the sentry's and admittance 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 camera bags, purses, etc. are subject to search 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.
- Furthermore, smoking is prohibited onboard RTC including 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.
- RTC supports the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. If you are a peace officer (policeman, etc.) and are required to carry a weapon at all times as a condition of your service; please contact Great Lakes Police Departments' Deputy Chief Knapp at james.b.knapp@navy.mil or (847)688-5555 well in advance of your visit to discuss procedures and requirements. Weapons possession on federal reservations is highly regulated and those in violation are subject to arrest and prosecution.
- When returning your sailor in the evening to RTC (GATE 6) the above rules also apply. Allow plenty of time to get your sailor back.
- 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.
- 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, <u>REPEAT DO NOT</u> 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.
- <u>Last but not least</u> 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.

#### **CHAPTER 9 GRADUATION**

#### Pass-In-Review Access List:

RTC does not issue tickets for the graduation ceremony; instead Recruits are permitted to place the names of their intended guests on the access list. The number of guests allowed per Recruit is dependent on the number of divisions in the training group. Please advise your sailors that the following names are not acceptable on the access list they fill out. "Mom, Dad, Brother, Papa, Sister, Aunt, Uncle" The names they provide must be the actual names example "John Smith, Nancy Smith" not Mr. Jones or Mrs. Jones

Twelve or less divisions within the training group: **FOUR** guest maximum per Recruit.

Thirteen or more divisions within the training group: **THREE** guest maximum per Recruit.

Please visit the Navy's Official website <a href="http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/faq\_family.html">http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/faq\_family.html</a> for more information regarding the number of guests permitted for your Recruit's PIR.

Please coordinate with your Recruit as only 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 recruits name.

ALL GUESTS 3 AND OLDER MUST BE LISTED ON THE ACCESS LIST. No exceptions will be made for active duty service members or retired military personnel. 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 are not on the access list should 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.



#### **CHAPTER 9 GRADUATION CONTINUED**

Cushions for seats – seats are bleacher style. Recommend cushions be purchased at Wal-Mart 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

#### **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 or via phone at (847)688-2405.

Use of wheelchairs and manually-powered mobility aids are authorized onboard RTC. RTC provides wheelchair spaces and a companion seat in a specialty seating area in the ceremonial drill hall. RTC has wheelchairs available on a first-come, first-served basis which can 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.

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 three types of graduates.

It is important that you know these groups.

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

**GROUP 1.** Departing "A" School Graduates who will ship to another base OUTSIDE OF Great Lakes. This does not include those Sailors who will be going across the street for indoctrination prior to going to Ft. Lee VA.

**GROUP 2.** Temporary Holdovers (THU) staying at RTC SHIP 5.

**GROUP 3.** Naval Service Training Command "A" School sailors

## 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. 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) with enough time to be on their ship's toe-line N.L.T. 19:30 hrs (7:30 PM). Check with your sailor some ships has different return times. (see maps page for location)
- 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. <u>DO NOT CALL THE AIRLINES OR THE USO.</u> 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.

#### **CHAPTER 10 CONTINUED**

- 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 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 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.
- Round trips to the airport to see your sailor off are available at a fair price.
  Contact me if you wish to use our services or to make reservations; see my
  website <a href="http://www.mynavytaxi.com">http://www.mynavytaxi.com</a> for all the rates. It is always best to call me
  for immediate same day assistance or reservations.
- Last but not least 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 at 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.

#### **CHAPTER 10 CONTINUED**

- "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 5.**

This group of sailors have 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.

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 **SHIP 5 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 each night - Normally N.L.T. 19:15 hrs (7:15 PM). **CHECK WITH YOUR SAILOR!!!** 

#### **CHAPTER 10 CONTINUED**

#### **GROUP 3 Great Lakes Naval Station "A" School Sailors**

This group of sailors has fully graduated and **ARE NOT HOLD OVERS** and will be transferred across the street to the NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND (NSTC).

These sailors will have only a short time with you after graduation (about 30-45 minutes). They will return to their boot camp ships and will be out-processed and then transported across the street to **THE MAIN GATE (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 at NSTC until **2:30PM TO 4:30PM.** 

They will remain at **NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND (a.k.a. NSTC)** until graduation from "A" School. They will have Liberty on Friday (after in-processing) until 10:00 PM and on Saturday & Sunday, from, 7:00AM to 10:00PM.

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

## YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN YOUR SAILOR OUT / IN ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

No need to sign your sailor in or out on Friday <u>UNLESS their ship requires it</u>. The walk or drive to their ships is approximately three fourths of a mile. See the MAPS PAGE. The gate pass you printed for RTC <u>is not valid at the Main Gate</u> (NSTC).

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 in and 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.

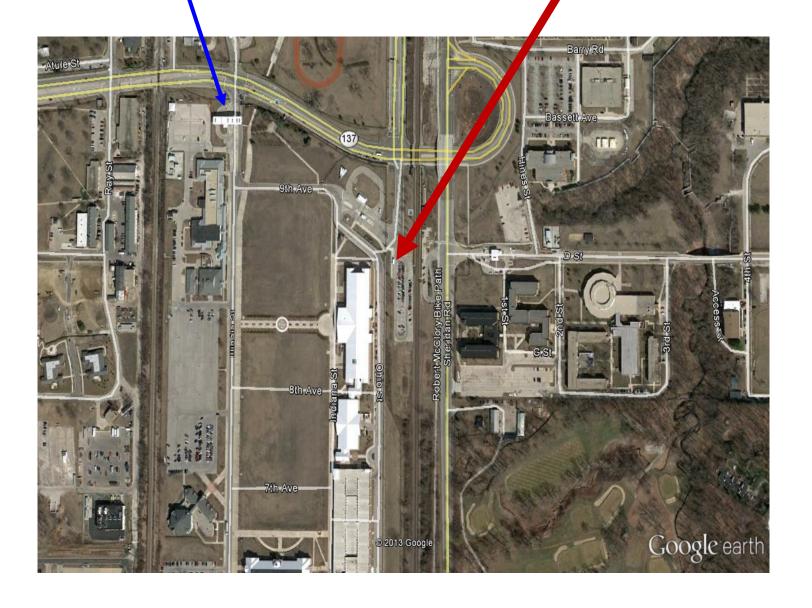
See next page for maps

#### **CHAPTER 11 – MAPS AND DIRECTIONS.**

These maps are free domain on Google Earth. For GPS purposes, use the following to navigate around the area:

a. RTC GATE NUMBER 6 to return Group 1 & 2 Sailors (USE ILLINOIS STREET (GPS) – GREAT LAKES)

GRADUATION GATE # 8 -(USE OHIO STREET (GPS) -GREAT LAKES)





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

#### Everything you need to plan for if you are going to tour Chicago -

http://www.choosechicago.com

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.cnic.navv.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns great lakes.html

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) <a href="http://metrarail.com/metra/en/home.html">http://metrarail.com/metra/en/home.html</a>

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

## RESTAURANTS THAT OFFER FREE MEALS TO SAILORS ON GRADUATION DAY. http://www.gosalernos.com

Other fine restaurants that may offer a free meal for the sailors on graduation day – Check with them first ----

http://www.cafepomigliano.com

http://www.jimmyscharhouselibertyville.com

http://www.stevensofgurnee.com

#### GIFTS AND GOODIES FOR LOVED ONES

**GREAT GIFTS** 

**GREAT OUTER WEAR** 

#### TRAVEL BARGAINS

HTTP://WWW.KAYAK.COM

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

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

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

#### SHORT CUT DIRECTIONS

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 ¾ 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 gate passes and 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 ¾ 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 gate passes and 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 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 (Gates 1,4,5). All others must be escorted by an authorized persons and have valid-unexpired identification. Veterans who possess a "Veteran Card" issued by a NON DOD agency, are not authorized access. See this link for further review <a href="http://cac.mil/docs/DODI-1000.13.pdf">http://cac.mil/docs/DODI-1000.13.pdf</a>
- C. Only properly vetted commercial vehicles (Taxi Cabs, Vendors) are authorized access into Great Lakes. Share Ride companies such as Uber, Lyft, Sidecar, DoorDash, Drizly, Sherpa Share (also known as Transportation Network Companies) ARE NOT AUTHORIZED inside 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.
- **D.** Guest of authorized persons must be escorted at all times. 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 and the National Anthem, <u>all vehicles must stop</u>. Military personal outside of buildings or outside of vehicles, must stand fast and render proper salutes and military courtesy.
- **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.

#### **CHAPTER 15 CONTINUED**

- K. Students cannot operate motor vehicles on base unless they have Live-Ashore privileges.
- L. Smoking is permitted only in designated areas.

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.

#### **Helpful official links**

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\_great\_lakes.html

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\_great\_lakes/about/installation\_guide/phone\_directory.html

http://ngis.dodlodging.net

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

https://www.history.navy.mil

**UNOFFICIAL HELPFUL LINKS.** 

http://mybaseguide.com/navy/21/ns\_great\_lakes

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

http://www.visitlakecounty.org

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: <a href="mailto:johnspadaro@att.net">johnspadaro@att.net</a> our website address is <a href="mailto:www.mynavytaxi.com">www.mynavytaxi.com</a>

Regards, John Spadaro (A.K.A. Sarge) Sergeant First Class United States Army Retired. Serving those who serve us.

## Thank you to those who served in defense of our Great Nation. One team – One fight



