

# NAVAL HERITAGE, CUSTOMS, HONORS, TRADITIONS AND CEREMONIES

## **INTRODUCTION:**

All US military services have made great contributions and sacrifices in defending and serving their country. This tradition has left a proud legacy of dedication and patriotism for others to emulate. Throughout US history, the Navy has developed a proud heritage replete with customs and ceremonies reflecting that heritage. The Navy uses this heritage and its customs and ceremonies to instill pride and to motivate its members to dedicated and faithful service. This unit provides information to the spouse about this heritage and related customs, honors, traditions and ceremonies.

## **GOAL:**

The goal of this module is for you to:

- learn about and discuss Naval heritage, customs, traditions and ceremonies
- gain ideas for passing our history to the next generations

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- Social Customs & Traditions of the Sea Services, Naval Services FamilyLine publication, 2014
- Sea Legs, Naval Services FamilyLine publication, 2013
- Cherlynn Conetsco and Anna Hart, Service Etiquette, Fifth Edition
- [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)
- Sailor's Creed

***“Our inheritance of well founded, slowly conceived codes of honor, morals and manners, the passionate convictions which so many hundreds of millions share together of freedom and justice, are far more precious to us than anything which scientific discoveries can bestow.”***

Winston Churchill

# TOPIC OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

- customs
- traditions
- honors
- ceremonies

## 2. Creeds and Oaths

- Sailor's Creed
- Officer's Oath & Enlistment Oath
  - Navy Core Values – Honor, Courage, Commitment

## 3. Ceremonies

- Morning/Evening Colors
- Promotions/Frockings
- Reenlistments/Retirements
- Memorials/Burials
- Change of Command

## 4. Command Pins

## **NAVY CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS**

- **WETTING DOWN**
- **CHIEF'S PINNING**
- **KHAKI BALL**
- **GREEN LIGHTING**
- **BAPTISM IN THE SHIP'S BELL**
- **DINING IN ~ DINING OUT**
- **PIPING ABOARD**
- **MANNING THE RAILS**
- **SIDEBOYS**
- **COMMAND COINS**
- **RENDERING HONORS**
- **MIA TABLE AT NAVY BALLS**
- **HAILS & FAREWELLS**
- **AVIATOR BROWN SHOES**
- **SHELLBACK**
- **PLANKOWNERS**
- **BURIAL AT SEA**
- **TACKING ON THE CROW**
- **TIGER CRUISE**
- **COLORS/TAPS**
- **STRIKING THE FLAG**
- **21 GUN SALUTE**
- **CHRISTENING, LAUNCHING & COMMISSIONING US NAVY SHIPS**

## TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Origins of customs and traditions
  - Flag/National Anthem/Service Song Etiquette
  - Visiting the command (ship, squadron or other unit)
  - Sideboys and Piping Aboard/Piping Over the Side
- Changes of Command
  - Spouse participation
  - Appropriate attire
  - Seating
  - Reception
  - Other parties
  - Accommodations for guests
  - Receiving lines
  - Funding
  - Attending when active duty member does not
- Other 'Command Performances'
  - Dining Ins/Dining Outs
  - Entertaining
  - Wardroom family
  - Command family
  - Serving alcohol
- Invitations/R.S.V.P./Thank-you notes
  - Using ranks and rates when addressing military members
  - Gifts