



Combined Summer Training Command Great Lakes
LCDR Brett Blomberg, NSCC
COMMANDING OFFICER TRAINING CENTER
United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps
BLDG 178, Training Support Center Great Lakes
<http://www.usnscnavstaglks.info>

As commanding officer of COMSUMTRACOMGLKS, it is my pleasure to welcome you to one of the finest training experiences available anywhere. There's quite a bit of information packed into this letter; please read it carefully, and have your parents read it carefully as well.

This letter applies to all trainings that make up the Combined Summer Training Command at Naval Station Great Lakes. Training specific information is at the end of this letter.

Email is the preferred method of contacting me with questions or concerns. My email address is (brettblomberg@aol.com) My cell phone # is (847) 421-1036

What We Need From You

- **LEGIBLE** completed NSCTNG001 (all blanks completed, all required signatures there, LEGIBLE and VALID email addresses with spam filters that allow my email address through)
- Deposit (Money Order or Cashier's Check ONLY) made out to USNSCC in the amount of \$190.00
- Photocopy of your USNSCC ID card showing validity through July 2011
- Travel plans (POV, or your flight info, both arrival and departure)
- T-shirt size

Send all of the above to me at:

LCDR Brett Blomberg, NSCC
8 Elsinoor Dr.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

When Is It Needed?

ASAP, of course ☺. Contact me first for a quota. Some trainings fill up very quickly. Decide what you would like to attend, and get your paperwork completed as quickly as you can.

You will be challenged and will learn a lot during your time here. All of the trainings taught at this Combined Summer Training Command are taught by the actual USN "A" School instructors who teach Sailors with those specific ratings, so come in the right frame of mind to get the most out of this opportunity. Naval Station Great Lakes is an outstanding training hub for the Navy, with more than 14 "A" schools located here.

We enjoy extremely good relationships with the Navy. They are all keenly aware of our program, and provide outstanding support to us on the base. Because of their invaluable support and teamwork, we can offer you a training experience unlike any other.

UNIFORMS

During the transition period to NWUs for cadets, I am aware that uniform supply has been a challenge. The **preferred working uniform for all cadets, all trainings at COMSUMTRACOMGLKS is UTILITIES.** If there are difficulties with this, after checking with your chain of command at your home unit, contact me to discuss.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:

I need to know your travel arrangements and intentions ASAP, whether you are traveling by POV (auto), air, or train. Cadets should arrive no earlier than 1200 (noon) Saturday, 16JUL11 (unless your flight is significantly cheaper to arrive the evening of 15JUL11, but if so, contact me ASAP to discuss). All cadets should be onboard NLT 1600 Saturday, 16JUL11. Cadets should book their return airfare to depart no earlier than 1500 24JUL11 to allow time to participate in graduation and to be at the airport in plenty of time for your flight. **PARENTS, *if* you intend to send your child in an “unaccompanied minor” status on the airlines, PLEASE contact me prior to making those arrangements with the airlines.**

- We are responsible for cadets upon arrival at Naval Station Great Lakes. Transportation to and from Naval Station Great Lakes is the responsibility of the parent or unit.
- Check in will be **Saturday, 16JUL11** at TSC Great Lakes (Training Support Center) between 1200 and 1600 (noon and 4p). It is **critical** you arrive within this time frame for security purposes. If your arrangements fall outside this window, please contact me well in advance to discuss.
- Parents or escort officers will drop your cadets at the designated area (if driving, this is the Visitor’s Center parking lot), where our staff will meet you. We will assume responsibility for getting them to their quarters on base.
- Although transportation for cadets arriving via commercial air is the responsibility of the parent/unit, cadets arriving by commercial air **MUST** email their travel itineraries prior to arrival to LCDR Brett Blomberg, NSCC @ brettblomberg@aol.com
- Cadets are **NOT** allowed to drive vehicles to the training.
- Cadets should travel in **civilian clothes** to and from Naval Station Great Lakes.
- Cadets should carry their USNSCC ID card with them during travel and at all times while on base, unless otherwise directed by competent authority.
- Cadets are also reminded to bring their dress whites in a garment bag to prevent soiling and wrinkling. You are strongly advised to have your uniform cleaned and pressed prior to arrival, and to take pains to insure it does not get wrinkled en route.
- If traveling via airlines, baggage occasionally gets lost or misrouted. I strongly encourage you to bring one set of utilities, a change of undergarments, your service record, and a toothbrush in your carry-on bag. Hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

Nearest Airport

There are two airports within reasonable distance to the Naval Station Great Lakes:

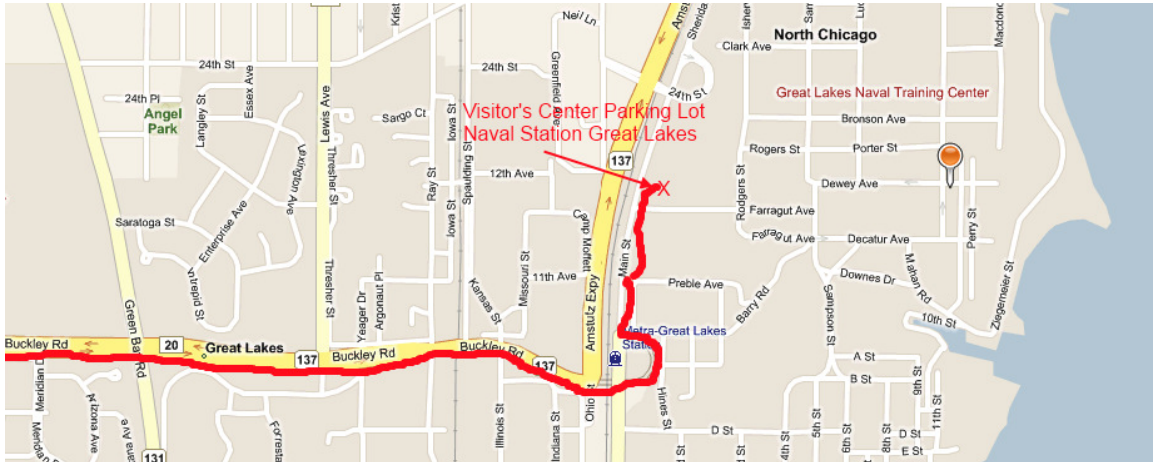
- Chicago O-Hare Field (**closest and recommended**)
- Milwaukee Mitchell Airport (Milwaukee, WI)
- PLEASE do not book travel into Midway Airport. It is more than 60 miles from the base, and will likely take hours to arrive by shuttle, as well as being prohibitively expensive.

Transportation from Airport

- The Airport Express (<http://www.airportexpress.com>) provides shuttle service from O’Hare to Great Lakes 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The fare is reasonable (check the website or call them for the current fare), and the service is extremely safe, making no stops door to door. This service can also be scheduled in advance for the return trip to O’Hare on 24JUL11. **Return flights should NOT be booked with a departure time prior to 1500 (3p) on Sunday, 24JUL11.**
- Cadets should go to the Airport Express booths, located adjacent to all baggage areas in the lower Level at O’Hare. **Cadets/Escort Officers must state that they are going to Naval Station Great Lakes.**

- Taxi is the only other means of transportation to Great Lakes from Milwaukee. Cost is approximately \$50.00 one way. Parents, it will really be easier if you schedule your cadet via O'Hare.

If coming by car and **you plan to use a GPS** to navigate to the base, enter this address: 2601 Paul Jones Street, Great Lakes, IL 60088. Do not enter the base; instead go to the Visitor's Center parking lot, where you will be met. Cadets arriving POV (by car) are NOT to get a visitor's pass and drive onto the base, nor should parents with DOD base stickers drop their cadets at the barracks if they decide to visit the NEX prior to drop off. We will have staff in the Visitor's Center parking lot who will meet you and bring you onto the base. To repeat, the Visitor's Center Parking Lot is where ALL cadets will begin their training.



MISCELLANEOUS:

You **MUST** include a **LEGIBLE** email address on your request for orders. I send frequent updates prior to the start of training, and often send updates during the training to parents. I will NOT use your email addresses for any purposes other than those required for this training.

This is a medical friendly training, in accordance with USNSCC regulations. Cadets DO NOT SELF-MEDICATE. Your medications, whether prescription or over the counter, will be confiscated from you at intake, and returned to you prior to graduation. It is your responsibility to attend sick call at announced times for your medication; we will not come to find you.

If you have allergies of any type, we need to know that to ensure your safety; you should have a medic alert bracelet or a red allergy dog tag in your possession during the training.

I need to know your t-shirt size. Please advise me of this when you provide the information I requested about your travel plans. I MUST have this information as soon as possible so as to order correct sizes far enough in advance to guarantee delivery.

I understand and support that cadets traveling via commercial air often have cell phones with them while traveling. Per USNSCC guidance, upon check-in, you WILL surrender your cell phone for safekeeping for the duration of the training. I suggest you put a label on the back of your phone with your information prior to arrival so that it can be returned to you on graduation day. There are no exceptions to this policy for cadets; any cadet found with a cell phone during the training will be sent home at the parents' or home unit's expense, per guidance from NHQ. Cadets traveling via airline should call home upon landing to let parents know that you've arrived safely. All Cadets will have the opportunity to call home once arriving at the base.

Here's something else you should know up front...no electronic devices for cadets during the training. It's too easy for iPods or expensive cameras, etc. to get lost or damaged during a training, so leave them home.

If you're flying in, by all means bring your tunes for the flight, but know that it will be confiscated upon check-in and returned to you on graduation day.

Please read the Seabag list carefully. Bring everything listed on it, and nothing that is not listed on it. Be sure to bring a lock with two keys (one will be collected and taped inside your service jacket in the event you lose it). If there are questions about anything on the seabag list, send me an email for clarification.

Break-in your footwear. You will march everywhere while at the training. Athletic shoes (specifically designed for walking/running with good arch support...**NO KEDS, basketball hi-tops, or other similar shoes that provide little or no support**) will help prevent foot injuries when PT'ing. Steel-toed **Boondockers** (sometimes known as chukka boots) **are the regular, normal footwear for the training**. If you're unable to locate steel-toed safety boots via your unit, go to WalMart and purchase a pair of **PLAIN BLACK steel-toed safety boots**. Dress shoes for cadets are the appropriate footwear for graduation **only**. Having them broken in ahead of time makes it less likely that you will sustain a foot injury that could prevent you from completing the training. Even minor orthopedic injuries could prevent you from graduating. Ensuring you have the proper footwear, properly sized and broken in is the easiest thing you can do to insure your success.

MY EXPECTATIONS:

I expect greatness from each of you, and this training, including careful selection of officers, is designed to set you up for success. Correct military courtesy will be observed at **all** times, by all hands. This is an advanced training, not boot camp. Having said that, I expect that cadets participating in this training understand and observe proper military courtesy, particularly with respect to saluting, forms of address, and quarterdeck procedures. If your understanding of these is less than it should be (after all, you're not recruits), rest assured you will learn them here. Great Lakes is home to many active duty and reserve officers, and increasingly to joint service officers of many services and nations. They all know who we are, and we are constantly watched. Sometimes very senior officers will drop into the barracks if they know we're aboard for training. Know your rank and recognition, maintain your military bearing, and help maintain the Navy's impression of the USNSCC as knowledgeable and scrupulous observers of military courtesy.

Please note that each day's trainings will begin with a unison recitation of the Sailor's Creed by all hands, in accordance with Navy policy and custom over the last 15 years. You can find the Creed here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navy_Oath. Please memorize it, if you haven't already. Guess what the first thing is that you'll be asked after you turn in your orders and service records?

All the training activity takes place during the workday from 0530-1500. We are arranging some activities for the evenings after dinner, but there will usually be a short period of liberty on several of the evenings. You may use your liberty time to relax, write letters home, prepare your uniforms/shoes for the next day, visit with new friends, or to use certain liberty facilities on base which will be posted once the training begins. I wish to remind you that liberty is a **privilege**, not a right. You yourselves will determine by your behavior how frequently you get liberty.

A schedule of divine services will be posted for those who wish to attend. Additionally, we are going to do some fun weekend activities.

Please insure that in addition to any spending money you want to bring, you set aside \$10 for toiletries you might need from the NEX during the course of this training.

Parents especially, please understand we will have no Internet access during the training while in the barracks. Emails simply cannot be accommodated. We provide updates during the months leading up to training, and updates of cadet activities during the training itself via Twitter.

Cadets enjoy mail call every day. Please write to your cadets, and ensure they have envelopes and stamps to write you back about some of the amazing experiences they will have. Time is available, once assigned

tasks are completed, for them to write every single day if they wish. Write to them by using the following address:

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
(Cadet Rank) (Cadet Name)
P.O. Box 88-6834
Great Lakes, IL 60088-6834

ADDITIONAL INFO--NAVAL ENGINEERING

USN Coveralls are a required uniform item for this training evolution, as are STEEL-TOED BLACK BOONDOCKERS OR STEEL-TOED BLACK WORKBOOTS. (Steel-toed black workboots are available at a variety of locations, including both Army/Navy surplus stores, as well as Wal-Mart, Farm & Fleet, etc). Make sure to break them in well in advance of the training. This means start wearing them a little every day beginning in mid May. You will march everywhere on the base; plan on about 3 miles per day. We do not provide coveralls for this training; you must supply your own, correctly configured per USNSCC uniform regulations. The coveralls are an orderable item through the USNSCC Uniform Depot; I believe they cost \$3. You will need to order your flashes, name tape, branch tape (silver for cadets) and rank insignia and bring them with you already correctly sewn onto your coveralls. You can order the name tapes from <http://www.1800nametape.com/usnsc.htm#COVERALL>, or call them direct at +1 (800) 626-3827. You get your rank insignia from your home unit at admin/supply call. Rank insignia for coveralls have changed; make sure you know and adhere to the changes, which you can find via your chain of command at your home unit. Get this taken care of ASAP.

If you wear contact lenses, you must also bring a pair of prescription glasses to the training for the damage control portion of the training; contact lenses cannot be worn inside the wet trainer.

ADDITIONAL INFO—BOATSWAIN’S MATE SCHOOL

In order to safely operate all aspects of the hands on seamanship trainer, we need to have AT LEAST 30 cadets participating in the training. Please note that if we have less than 30 cadets, you will not be able to perform all functions on the seamanship trainer for safety reasons. DO your part to recruit a friend to attend the training with you so that we can participate in all of the activities the Navy has planned.

USN Coveralls are a required uniform item for this training evolution, as are STEEL-TOED BLACK BOONDOCKERS OR STEEL-TOED BLACK WORKBOOTS. (Steel-toed black workboots are available at a variety of locations, including both Army/Navy surplus stores, as well as Wal-Mart, Farm & Fleet, etc). Make sure to break them in well in advance of the training. This means start wearing them a little every day beginning in mid May. You will march everywhere on the base; plan on about 3 miles per day. We do not provide coveralls for this training; you must supply your own, correctly configured per USNSCC uniform regulations. The coveralls are an orderable item through the USNSCC Uniform Depot. You will need to order your flashes, name tape, branch tape (silver for cadets) and rank insignia and bring them with you already correctly sewn onto your coveralls. You can order the name tapes from <http://www.1800nametape.com/usnsc.htm#COVERALL>, or call them direct at +1 (800) 626-3827. You get your rank insignia from your home unit at admin/supply call. Rank insignia for coveralls have changed; make sure you know and adhere to the changes, which you can find via your chain of command at your home unit. Get this taken care of ASAP.

ADDITIONAL INFO—ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

The USNSCC Electronics School is based on an 8 week Apprentice Technical Training (ATT) school that more than 15 enlisted ratings must satisfactorily complete prior to attending their respective “A” School. You will learn to troubleshoot, diagnose, and repair electronics systems during this course. The entire course is hands on in the electronics lab.

ADDITIONAL INFO—GUNNER’S MATE SCHOOL

In addition to learning to maintain and care for, as well as qualify on, every light weapon in the USN inventory, cadets at this training will have a unique opportunity to train on the last days of the training with the Chicago FBI at their regional training center on a variety of challenging urban assault simulator courses.

This course is taught by USN Gunner’s Mate “A” school active duty instructors, and will teach you the fundamentals of weapons maintenance, weapons safety, and marksmanship qualifications.

ADDITIONAL INFO—BASIC CORPSMAN SCHOOL

This course has been completely redesigned by the Navy to fit this training. All of the instructors for this training are combat veterans of either Iraq or Afghanistan. You will learn all facets of the hospital corpsman rating, including hospital, hospital administration, and combat medicine.

Given the uniform shortages during the transition to NWUs and NSUs, the working uniform for this training is UTILITIES, no summer whites. You will graduate in dress whites. If there are issues, contact me to discuss.

ADDITIONAL INFO—ADVANCED CORPSMAN SCHOOL

See above, but more intense and hands on. You must have already attended a Basic Medical training elsewhere within the USNSCC, or have equivalent experience which I must approve. Not only will you do different things than the Basic Corpsman cadets, you will have the opportunity to do more intense training designed for cadets who are getting that second, closer look at a career in the medical profession.

Given the uniform shortages during the transition to NWUs and NSUs, the working uniform for this training is UTILITIES, no summer whites. You will graduate in dress whites. If there are issues, contact me to discuss.

I look forward to training with you this summer!

Respectfully,

/s/

LCDR Brett Blomberg, NSCC
Commanding Officer, COMSUMTRACOMGLKS
brettblomberg@aol.com
(847) 421-1036