

Good morning '85!!

Like the song says: "Oh what a night"!! For those who attended last night's event, you KNOW what I am talking about. GREAT start to this epic weekend and a shout out to the staff and owners of McGarvey's who rocked our world last night. Thanks for coming out and I can promise you folks, that is ONLY the beginning of the fun. This morning we get serious for a while with our Class Memorial service to honor our 45 Fallen Classmates and their families. This starts at 1000, followed by our Class meeting at Mitscher Hall from 1115-1200. I am going to give a brief chat about the state of our Class and things we have planned down the road. After that, I have the honor to turn the mic over to the Navy's Old Goat and classmate and 11th Company member, Admiral Stuart Munsch for the 2nd half of our Class meeting.

Here is Stuart's biography: Stuart Benjamin Munsch[1] (born 1962)[2] is a United States Navy admiral who serves as the commander of United States Naval Forces Europe-Africa and commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples since 27 June 2022.[3] He most recently served as the director for joint force development, J7, of the Joint Staff from 2020 to 2022.[4][5][6]

- Munsch is also the Navy's Old Goat, the longest serving United States Naval Academy graduate on active duty, having received the title and accompanying decanter from John C. Aquilino on 26 June 2024.[7]
- Munsch was assigned to four consecutive sea duty assignments, serving on USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659), USS Jefferson City (SSN-759), USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) on the staff of commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 5, and USS Tucson (SSN-770). In 1999, Munsch reported ashore to U.S. Pacific Command, where he served in the Plans and Policy Directorate (J5) prior to becoming deputy executive assistant to the commander. He then was selected for a White House Fellowship and served as special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Munsch commanded USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) from 2002 to 2005, followed by duty in the Pentagon as the military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and then as executive assistant to the director, submarine warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N87).
- Munsch commanded Submarine Development Squadron (DEVRON) 5 from 2008 to 2010 and then returned to the Pentagon to head the Navy Strategy branch (OPNAV N513). Selected for flag rank, he was reassigned as deputy director, undersea warfare (OPNAV N97).
- Sent overseas to Japan and Bahrain, Munsch commanded Submarine Group 7 and Task Forces 74 and 54 from 2013 to 2015, followed by duty in the Pentagon as the senior military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. In 2017 Munsch reported to OPNAV N3/N5 as the assistant and in 2018 became the deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans and strategy. In 2019 he established and served as the initial deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting development, N7. He assumed his role as director for joint force development (J7) in 2020.

My thanks to Stuart and his Aide-de-Camp LCDR Devin Laviano, USNA 2013, for making the trip and for taking the time to speak to the Class today. If you can spare an hour and some walking, join us for the meeting after the Memorial Service and before Mid Store Shopping.

Today's highlights are: GREAT WEATHER! (Thank you God), Class events on the Yard, the Supe's Brief at 1415-1530 at Mahan Hall and of course, the Class Cocktail/Dinner Party at the beautiful Fluegel Center tonight from 1745-2100. Get there early and enjoy this place, enjoy the setting and enjoy over 600 Classmates who will be attending this amazing evening. Busses for this will start doing dedicated runs from the hotels shortly after 1700 and bring you back starting around 2045-2130. Come thirsty (open bar all night) and come hungry. Our DJ will be playing some of the tunes you all sent me for the playlist tonight.

Some notes: Mid Store access is with your Class name tag, registration starts at 0900 at the Westin lobby through 1700. The items and apparel you see at the registration desk, including our Class of '85 Axia Watch, will all be available for online purchases during and after the reunion, take a minute to look at this stuff, you will be impressed. I will have it on display at the dinner and tailgate as well. Enjoy the day, see all of you soon and from the bottom of my heart: THANK YOU for coming and making the efforts of my wife, Tracey, and I a blessing. Go Navy and WELCOME BACK '85, let's ROCK IT today.

Bob Smith '85