



NAVAL ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967 MAPS Raid '66 -- The Legend

Some stories improve with age, but this one was great from the start. Fall and football go hand in hand – so do pranks played upon rivals. It was in this spirit that a handful of Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS) students would gather in secret to plan for a pre-game raid that should go down in NAPS history as the best of all time. Fifty-one years have passed since that cool, crisp October evening and the raid and counter attempt that followed. Lest facts give way to fiction over time, let the story be told by those who lived it. Here's how the raid unfolded.

Serious planning began days before the students at the Military Academy Prep School (MAPS) then located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia would travel to the Naval Academy Prep School then located on the grounds of the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland for a fall classic dubbed *"The Little Army – Navy Game."* Charged with reconnaissance, Corporal Dan Droog and Petty Officer Sadler James traveled the distance to Fort Belvoir, gained easy access, and mapped the location of the school administrative building, barracks, and guard posts of interest. Back home, a tight-lipped team of twelve soon formed. Senior man among the group, Petty Officer Paul Cuddy, would likely take the fall and lose a stripe or two if the mission should fail or superiors took a dim view of the attempt. The other conspirators stood to lose as well; but having been taught, *"He who will not risk cannot win," (John Paul Jones)* the men determined it was worth the shot. The team gathered and quietly staged all necessary materials; e.g., small hand tools, bolt cutters, paint, brushes, tarps, etc. Petty Officer Sadler James managed to procure (don't ask) a Navy pick-up truck. The time and date were set – the team was ready. Dressed in Marine fatigues, the NAPS Raiders arrived at Fort Belvoir approximately 0100. They identified themselves to the sentry as a funeral detail sent to pick-up the body of a deceased veteran. The sympathetic guard was quick to let motley crew pass without further question. It was a sad duty after all.

Once through the gate, the plan gained traction. The first to fall was the USMA Preparatory School sign where the bolt cutters made easy work of removal. While some painted “Go Navy! Beat Army!” slogans on the streets and sidewalks in front of the key facilities, others entered the MAPS admin building to procure unsecured articles of Army clothing and other souvenirs, the CO’s coffee cup included! As the clock ticked the chance of discovery increased. The raiders worked quietly and efficiently to keep the plan on track. The visit would not be complete, however, without a quick check of the MAPS Barracks where they were pleased to discover the Charge of Quarters (CQ) in the middle of writing a letter to his girlfriend. Surprised and startled by the intruders, the guard was quickly bound, gagged, stripped of his arm-band, carried to the waiting pick-up, tossed into the bed, and covered with a tarp. He could only wonder as to motive for his capture. As the truck began to roll, one Marine announced, “*If he moves, hit him with this!*” The man never moved. The marauders departed Fort Belvoir as quickly and easily as they entered. Some distance down the road, the enslaved guard was released unharmed with a handful of change to make a phone call from a nearby pay phone. We can only suppose his buddies retrieved him.

As luck would have it, one of the raiders lived not far from the return route to Bainbridge. A pre-arranged, late night stop at the home of Petty Officer Alan Holbach in Glen Burnie, Maryland found his parents ready and waiting with coffee and doughnuts. It was now a family affair, and the Holbachs were accessories.

Upon return to NAPS, the word passed to those on watch and quickly spread among others to be on the lookout and prepared for a retaliatory strike. It was still dark when a harried group from MAPS crept through a perimeter fence in an attempt to even the score. It was not to be. Realizing the MAPS raiders had approached NAPS not from the main gate but from Port Deposit -- a sleepy village on the banks of the Susquehanna River -- Sadler James circled around, descended the steep bluff separating NAPS from the village below, located the get-away vehicle, and pulled the distributor wires to thwart the escape. As the alarm sounded, NAPSters large and small rallied to capture and imprison the entire MAPS raiding party in the wrestling room below Memorial Hall. To ensure the MAPSters would remember their folly, some were given Navy “N” haircuts to show their friends. As the new day dawned, news of the combined raids hit the desks of those in charge on both ends. How to deal with the aftermath would consume their morning.

Though we do not know how the story ended for the Army raiders, the matter was quickly addressed at quarters on our end with a stern warning of sorts. The somewhat mixed signal, however, left us a bit confused; for by the sound of the skipper's voice and the look in the eyes of others we couldn't help but wonder if our leaders were not inwardly proud of the accomplishment. Forty-five years later we learned the truth – they were! After all, this would be the first successful “Beat Army” prank conceived and executed by members of the Naval Academy Class of 1971! In the interest of full disclosure, we lost the football game by a score of 7 to 6; but we weren't losers by any stretch.

A tip of the hat to the NAPS Raiders:

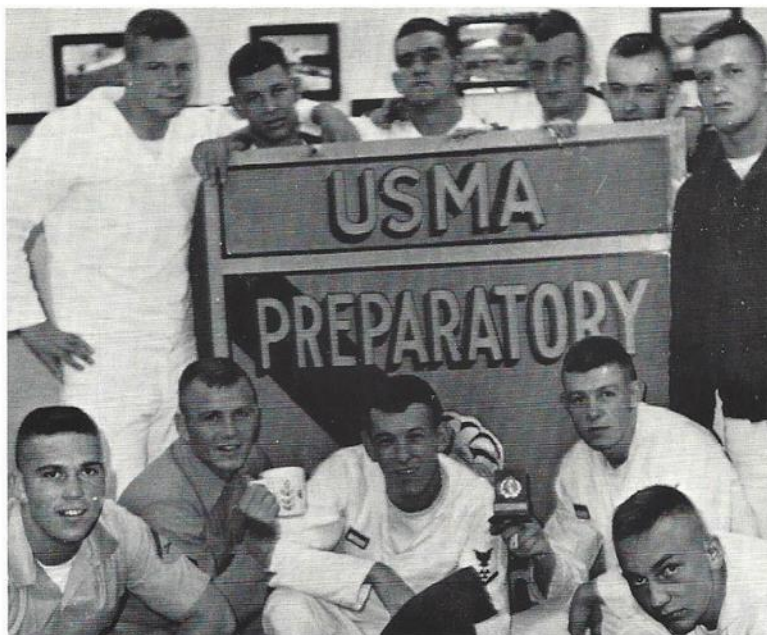
Barney Ballinger
Alan Holbach
Bill Lavigne

Paul Cuddy
Sadler James
Ken Range*

Dan Droog
Greg Kendle
Gerry Spears

Lance Glass
Mark Krivonak
John Ventola

*photographer



After a successful raid on the Military Academy Prep School, the NAPS raiding party displays the booty: Squatting: G. Kendle, D. Droog, G. Spears, S. James, W. Lavigne. Standing: R. Holbach, M. Krivonak, R. Ballinger, P. Cuddy, J. Ventola, L. Glass.

MAPS Raid



The men of Company II, dressed in procured MAPS gear, depart to meet the foe at the football game.



The Charge of Quarters armband pictured here remained in the possession of Petty Officer Ken Range for more than fifty years before being proudly displayed during the fifty-year reunion of the NAPS class of 1967. In November 2017, the story of the MAPS raid, pictures, and CQ armband were placed in a shadow box shown below and presented to the NAPS Commanding Officer in hopes that it will be prominently displayed, and the story told for years to come.

**NAVAL ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1967
MAPS Raid '66 -- The Legend**



Some stories improve with age, but this one was great from the start. Fall and football go hand in hand - so do pranks played upon rivals. It was in this spirit that a handful of Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS) students would gather in secret to plan for a pre-game raid that should go down in NAPS history as the best of all time. Fifty-one years have passed since that cool, crisp October evening and the raid and counter attempt that followed. Lest facts give way to fiction over time, let the story be told by those who lived it. Here's how the raid unfolded.

Serious planning began days before the students at the Military Academy Prep School (MAPS) then located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia would travel to the Naval Academy Prep School then located on the grounds of the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland for a fall classic dubbed "The Little Army - Navy Game." Charged with reconnaissance, Corporal Dan Droog and Petty Officer Sadler James traveled the distance to Fort Belvoir, gained easy access, and mapped the location of the school administrative building, barracks, and guard posts of interest. Back home, a tight-lipped team of twelve soon formed. Senior man among the group, Petty Officer Paul Cuddy, would likely take the fall and lose a stripe or two if the mission should fail or superiors took a dim view of the attempt. The other conspirators stood to lose as well, but having been taught, "He who will not risk cannot win," (John Paul Jones) the men determined it was worth the shot. The team gathered and quietly staged all necessary materials; e.g., small hand tools, bolt cutters, paint, brushes, tarps, etc. Petty Officer Sadler James managed to procure (don't ask) a Navy pick-up truck. The time and date was set - the team was ready. Dressed in Marine fatigues, the NAPS Raiders arrived at Fort Belvoir approximately 0100. They identified themselves to the sentry as a funeral detail sent to pick-up the body of a deceased veteran. The sympathetic guard was quick to let motley crew pass without further question. It was a sad duty after all.

Once through the gate, the plan gained traction. The first to fall was the USMA Preparatory School sign where the bolt cutters made easy work of removal. While some painted "Go Navy! Beat Army!" slogans on the streets and sidewalks in front of the key facilities, others entered the MAPS admin building to procure unsecured articles of Army clothing and other souvenirs, the CO's coffee cup included. As the clock ticked the chance of discovery increased. The raiders worked quietly and efficiently to keep the plan on track. The visit would not be complete, however, without a quick check of the MAPS Barracks where they were pleased to discover the Charge of Quarters (CQ) in the middle of writing a letter to his girlfriend.

Surprised and startled by the intruders, the guard was quickly bound, gagged, stripped of his arm-band, carried to the waiting pick-up, tossed into the bed, and covered with a tarp. He could only wonder as to motive for his capture. As the truck began to roll, one Marine announced, "If he moves, hit him with this!" The man never moved. The marauders departed Fort Belvoir as quickly and easily as they entered. Some distance down the road, the enslaved guard was released unharmed with a handful of change to make a phone call from a nearby pay phone. We can only suppose his buddies retrieved him.

As luck would have it, one of the raiders lived not far from the return route to Bainbridge. A pre-arranged, late night stop at the home of Petty Officer Alan Holbach in Glen Burnie, Maryland found his parents ready and waiting with coffee and doughnuts. It was now a family affair, and the Holbachs were accessories. Upon return to NAPS, the word passed to those on watch and quickly spread among others to be on the lookout and prepared for a retaliatory strike. It was still dark when a harried group from MAPS crept through a perimeter fence in an attempt to even the score. It was not to be. Realizing the MAPS raiders had approached NAPS not from the main gate but from Fort Deposit - a sleepy village on the banks of the Susquehanna River - Sadler James circled around, descended the steep bluff separating NAPS from the village below, located the get-away vehicle, and pulled the distributor wires to thwart the escape. As the alarm sounded, NAPSers large and small rallied to capture and imprison the entire MAPS raiding party in the wrestling room below Memorial Hall. To ensure the MAPSers would remember their folly, some were given Navy "N" haircuts to show their friends. As the new day dawned, news of the combined raids hit the desks of those in charge on both ends. How to deal with the aftermath would consume their morning.

Though we do not know how the story ended for the Army raiders, the matter was quickly addressed at quarters on our end with a stern warning of sorts. The somewhat mixed signal, however, left us a bit confused, for by the sound of the skipper's voice and the look in the eyes of others we couldn't help but wonder if our leaders were not inwardly proud of the accomplishment. Forty-five years later we learned the truth - they were! After all, this would be the first successful "Beat Army" prank conceived and executed by members of the Naval Academy Class of 1971! In the interest of full disclosure, we lost the football game by a score of 7 to 6; but we weren't losers by any stretch.

NAPS RAIDERS



After a successful raid on the Military Academy Prep School, the NAPS raiding party displays the booty.
Front: Greg Kendie, Dan Droog, Gerry Spears, Sadler James, Bill Lavigne.
Back: Alan Holbach, Mark Krwonak, Barney Ballinger, Paul Cuddy, John Ventola, Lance Glass.
Not Pictured: Ken Range, photographer



The men of Company 2, dressed in procured MAPS gear, depart to meet the foe at the football game.

This Charge of Quarters armband "Donated" by the MAPS Sentry remained in the possession of Petty Officer Ken Range for more than fifty years before being proudly displayed during the fifty-year reunion of the **NAPS class of 1967**.