

NNOA

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An organization similar to the Naval Reserve Association (NRA) was discussed. A readout of minority officers, supplied by the Navy, made it abundantly clear that no NRA-type organization, composed solely of minority reserve of-

ficers, could be created. Fewer than 100 officers of every known minority could be identified. In fact, there were less than 50 Blacks on the list. If an organization with the necessary numerical clout were to be formed, it would have to be com-

posed of both active and reserve officers and a very active effort would have to be designed to attract them.

With this definite goal in mind, the founders set the next year for a proposed

organizational meeting. Because of the historical significance of Annapolis and the Naval Academy, that city was chosen as the site of this first meeting. Also, the presence of even a few Blacks in Annapolis wearing the uniform of officers of the U.S. Navy would be a sight to behold. Most Black Navy officers had experienced being mistaken for everything from firemen to pullman porters while wearing the Navy blue and gold. They hoped that would not be the case in a city familiar with the uniform.

Back home in Dallas, Capt. Emory sent out over 500 letters to those officers on the readouts. The lists contained not only Blacks, but Orientals, Hispanics, Filipinos, a Native American (the only Indian aviator in the Navy during World War II) and an occasional White officer, who somehow had ended up on the wrong list.

In July 1972, the Annapolis Hilton on the docks of that historic city, where slaves had been unloaded and sold not more than 100 years before, was to see something that few Black or White Americans had ever seen—the arrival of a number of minority officers of the U.S. Navy. Here the National Naval Officers Association was born. Not only Black officers, but also officers of other ethnic groups were present. Unfortunately, the latter groups failed to return to subsequent meetings. Perhaps they had that all-too-familiar, helpless feeling that Blacks have so often experienced under similar conditions of unequal representation. Fortunately, some of these ethnic officers did return and are counted among NNOA's membership today.

NNOA Today

THE NATIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION is not a union nor a fraternal association. It is a professional organization, sanctioned by the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Transportation. The organization is dedicated to assisting the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard increase the number, representation and contributions of all minorities in the officer corps. While remaining fully a part of the Naval Services "Family," NNOA is unique in many respects. It is a vital means of mutual support that does not exist elsewhere.

The objectives of NNOA include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Improving and assisting minority recruitment.
- Identifying minority problem areas.

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