



# 海軍傳統

## Naval Traditions

著者／黃弘霖 Huang, Hong-Lin  
海軍官校正期 114 年班

Since ancient times, the navy has been an international service. As a student in a Naval Academy, it is essential for us to acquire knowledge about naval traditions as part of our education. Without a wealth of knowledge, they won't become a well-rounded military officer. In addition to technical skills, it is important to learn about the historical traditions.

### 1. Midshipman

The term "Midshipman" originated from early British and American naval vessels. At that time, sailors lived in the bow of the ship, while officers resided in the stern. The task of relaying orders was often assigned to young naval cadets. Through constant exposure and interaction with officers, these cadets had the opportunity to be promoted to officers themselves. This tradition has been carried on, and students in Naval Academy are also referred to as Midshipmen.

### 2. Gangway

"Gangway" is one of the naval traditional etiquettes. In the United States Navy, this ceremony is only applied to when distinguished guests or during the change of command of a ship. In the British Navy, it is used to welcome foreign naval vessels. According to the current naval etiquette in our country, it is only required for all officers and soldiers to stand at attention during the President's visit to a naval port or a warship. As students in a military academy, we also imitate the gangway ceremony by lining up on both sides to welcome new students when they formally enter the school gate.

### 3. Bell-Ringing

On naval vessels, the ringing of bells represents the time of watch changes. One bell signifies a half-hour, and eight bells signify the completion of a four-hour watch. It also signifies "Eight bells, and all is well." When a commanding officer boards a ship,

the sailors on watch will ring the bell and play the pipe, following the sequence of "Two bells for Commander, four bells for Captain, six bells for Rear Admiral, and eight bells for Vice Admiral and above." This is a naval tradition followed by navies worldwide.

#### 4. Saluting the Aft Deck

When ascending and descending stairwells, one should always salute the aft deck. This is one of the international naval customs. Saluting the aft deck is also known as saluting the ship's stern flag. This practice originated from the early seafarers' tradition of showing respect to altars or later, crosses placed on the ship. Today, it has become a symbol of the nation, naturally becoming the central focus of naval reverence, replacing altars with the naval flag, (except for few countries such as Japan, most of the countries' naval flags are also national flags) making the aft deck the most sacred and solemn part of the ship. Therefore, the tradition of saluting the aft deck can continue to exist and be passed down to this day.

#### 5. Anchor Chain Spirit

In the history of the navy, we consistently

emphasize the spirit of mutual support known as the "Anchor Chain Spirit." The "anchor" serves as a device for mooring a ship, ensuring a stable stop. The "chain" is the object that connects the ship's body to the anchor, consisting of sturdy metal links interlocking with each other. When these two components come together, they adhere to the principles of perfect physical laws. Only when the interlinked chain combines with the substantial anchor can they overcome towering waves and stabilize the ship.

The "Anchor Chain Spirit" symbolizes unity and solidarity, enabling each position on naval vessels to function at its peak. This collective determination, akin to the links of a chain, must interlock and be passed down through generations to anchor the hearts of the crew. Regardless of the challenging environment they face, they embrace it willingly, steadfast in sacrificing and dedicating themselves to the security of the nation. On the lengthy and arduous path of naval development, they aim to illuminate a path and ensure the enduring legacy of the "Anchor Chain Spirit" by passing it on from generation to generation.



## 6. Launching Ceremony for New Ships

The tradition of launching ceremonies dates back to as early as 3000 B.C. in ancient Babylon. The evolution of this custom progressed from the initial practices of sprinkling asphalt and sacrificing bulls to the final tradition of bottle-breaking. Regardless of the specific rituals involved in a new ship's launch, the underlying meaning is a wish for the vessel's safe departure and return. The act of breaking a bottle is said to have originated from ancient times when, in the event of a shipwreck, sailors would place their wills inside glass bottles, hoping they would reach their families. Therefore, the bottle-breaking ceremony symbolizes a hope for no more drifting glass bottles at sea and no more anxiously waiting families on the shore. May all sailors return safely.

## 7. Avoidance of the Number Four in Ship Hull Numbers

This tradition is unique to Taiwan due to the superstition associated with the number four, as it sounds similar to the word for death. In traditional beliefs, the number four is considered inauspicious and believed to

bring misfortune. Consequently, the last two digits or the last digit of a ship's hull number is intentionally not the number four. This is done to pray for the safe departure and return of every ship, ensuring they encounter no dangers, and can bravely face and overcome challenges when they arise.

## 8. Whistle Signals

The history of whistling can be traced back to the era of oars and ancient ships. The clear and loud sound of a whistle made it easier for personnel working in different parts of the ship to hear commands. Even in modern navies, whistles are still used to convey messages. During the embarkation or disembarkation of high-ranking officers, specific individuals are designated to play the whistle, notifying all crew members of the current movements of the senior officers.

The excellent traditions of the navy symbolize its culture and spirit. These traditions are not just recorded in historical texts; they are the embodiment of the passion shown by naval pioneers and heroes. They represent the values and responsibilities that we must uphold and pass on.

海軍透過海洋與世界接軌，無遠弗屆，故我們也很自豪地被稱為國際軍種。身為一名海軍軍官學校的學生，在求學的過程中學習海軍相關歷史與傳統，是我們必要的學習目標之一，若沒有吸取這些基本的知識，在未來便無法成為一位文武兼備的兵科軍官。

### 1、Midshipman

「Midshipman」一詞來源於早年英美軍艦，當時水兵住艙於艦艙，軍官位於艦艙，傳遞命令的工作大多由十多歲的海軍練習生擔任，也由於經常與軍官接觸，在耳濡目染下，這些練習生往往可以晉升為軍官。典故沿襲至今，海軍官校的學生也會被稱為 Midshipman。

### 2、站艙

「站艙」為海軍傳統禮節之一，在美國海軍的習慣中，此禮儀僅適用於高貴乘客、軍艦進港或軍艦艦長更換新舊交接時行之；而英國海軍則用於對友邦軍艦的歡迎。在我國現行海軍禮節規定，僅於總統蒞臨軍港或軍艦時，全體軍官士兵站艙致敬；身為軍校的學生，在新生正式踏入學校的校門口時，我們也會模仿站艙，以在兩旁列隊的方式歡迎新生入學。

### 3、敲鐘

在海軍艦艇上，敲鐘代表值更勤的時間，一更為四個小時，敲鐘一響代表半個小時，兩響代表一個小時，當敲鐘八響後即完成四個小時的值更，也代表著「敲鐘八響，一切正常」。當長官蒞艦時，值更的航海軍士也會敲鐘以及禮笛「中校兩響、上校四響、少將六響、中將以上八響」，這也是全世界海軍共同遵循的艦艇禮節。

### 4、向後甲板敬禮

在上下梯口時，都應該向後甲板行舉手禮，這是海軍國際禮節之一。向後甲板敬禮又可稱為向艦艙之國旗敬禮，此習俗源自於早期航海人員對置放於船上的神壇或稍後的聖像十字架尊敬的習俗演變而來。現今乃成為國家的象徵，自然成為海軍崇敬的中心目標，而代之以國旗，使後甲板成為艦上最神聖莊嚴的特殊部位，所以向後甲板敬禮的習俗能夠繼續存在並流傳至今。

### 5、錨鏈精神

在海軍的歷史中，我們不斷地強調著同舟共濟的「錨鏈精神」，因為「錨」為一種泊船裝置，可使船停得安穩。而「鍊」則為連接船體與錨的物件，由



一個個堅固的金屬環相互扣連。當這兩樣東西合在一起時能發揮完美的物理定律，唯有環環相扣的鍊結合穩重的錨，始得克服巨浪，方能穩固船身。「錨鍊精神」代表同舟一心、團結一致，足以將艦艇之各位置功能發揮到極致；而這種團結的共同意志，更要如同鍊條一般，環環相扣且世代傳承，安定團結船員的心，不論身處的環境如何艱險，都甘之如飴，矢志為國家安全犧牲奉獻自我，為我海軍發展之漫漫長路上點亮一盞燈、使錨鍊精神能夠薪火相傳綿延不絕。

## 6、新船下水儀式

從最早的紀錄上可以發現這種習俗最早出現於西元前 3000 年的古巴比倫，這項習俗的演變從最早的灑瀝青和獻祭公牛逐漸的改變到最後的擲瓶禮，不管是何種的新船下水儀式其背後的涵義都是希望每艘船都可以平安出港及平安歸來，擲瓶禮背後的原因有另一種說法是由於古代發生船難時船員只能將遺囑放置於玻璃瓶中並希望其能夠回到家人手中，所以擲瓶禮是希望海上不再有漂流的玻璃瓶岸邊，不再有苦苦等待船員的家人、願所有船員都能平安歸來。

## 7、舷號尾數不得有四

這項傳統是只有台灣特有的傳統因在傳統習俗中四與死諧音相近，導致人們視為四是一個不吉利的數字會帶來厄運，並設計船的舷號後兩位數或最後一個數字和不會是四，以祈求每艘船都能夠平安出港順利回來不會遭遇任何危難、並在遇到危險時能夠乘風破浪、破除萬難。

## 8、口笛

口笛的歷史最早可以追溯到槳、樓船時代開始使用，因其清脆響亮的聲音更容易使在船上各部位工作的官兵弟兄清楚聽到，所以即使是在現代海軍中也依然會使用口笛來傳遞訊息，並且在有高階長官登離艦時也會有專門人員吹奏口笛通知所有船員高階長官目前動向。

海軍的優良傳統是海軍文化與精神的象徵，這些不僅僅只有歷史文字記載，更是海軍先賢先烈所揮灑的熱血，也是我們需要傳承的價值與責任。