Old Goat Designations and Qualifications

The Old Goat is the longest-serving United States Naval Academy Flag Officer graduate currently on active duty. The designation is accompanied by the Old Goat Award, a decanter engraved with the initials and class years of previous recipients. The Old Goat award recognizes those individuals who have shown unwavering dedication and exceptional service to our nation.

A relatively new tradition, the inaugural Old Goat was named Admiral Alton L. Stocks '72 in 2014, who chose the decanter as the official award to be passed to following recipients.

Designations and Qualifications:

1. The Old Goat is the USNA Flag officer graduate, on active duty, from the oldest (earliest) Class. This is independent of time-served, continuous service, birth date, designator or other qualifiers. Tiebreakers are resolved through the following protocol:
    a. In the case of multiple members from the same class, the member with the most senior rank is recognized.
    b. Tiebreaker for same Class and same rank is the earliest Date of Rank.
    c. If DORs are the same, the determinant would be the highest overall class standing (best OOM) at the time of graduation.
2. The outgoing Old Goat passes on a crystal decanter to the new Old Goat; there is only a single decanter, and it is transferred from one Old Goat to the next. Etched into the decanter are the initials and the two digit class year of each Old Goat.
3. There is no "official sponsor" for the Old Goat designation.

Updated October 2026