

MENTORING MINUTE (aka Mentoring 101)

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LET'S PLAY BALL! The journey for two baseball teams has now come to the finale, better known as the World Series. Since 1903, the World Series has served as the annual championship series of major league baseball (MLB), played between the American League (AL) and National League (NL) champions. The winner of the World Series championship is determined through a best-of-seven playoff and awarded the Commissioner's Trophy.

After the 2002 major league all-star game ended in a tie, MLB decided to award the World Series home-field advantage to the winner of the all-star game. The AL has won every all-star game since this change until 2010 and has enjoyed home-field advantage since 2002. After the 2010 World Series, the AL and NL have each won the World Series four times since the all-star game was used to determine home-field advantage.

Like players striving to reach the World Series, achieving career success often means maneuvering your way through a series of experiences that culminate in a finale.

Just as baseball players are drafted, without an individual preference, to a major league baseball organization, mentors are often selected from a mentee's preference to embark on a potentially career changing collaboration.

Baseball players gravitate toward other players in similar positions on the field in hope of some professional guidance. Mentees also tend to gravitate to successful mentors, in similar career fields, in hope of some professional guidance.

A player's path to a major league baseball team includes stints in the minor leagues, where players seek mentors. The long and grueling baseball season creates a trusting and lasting bond for younger players and veteran players each year.

The mentees' path to obtaining a successful career requires learning and growing "curves" thrown their way with every task and job experience they encounter, when they're asked to step up to the plate. A mentee's career, when guided by the right mentor, creates a lasting work and life experience that seasons him or her for a home field advantage.

We can see similarities in the mentor-mentee process in any professional venue, whether sports or government. The concepts that allow both mentors and mentees to grow together require a dedication and commitment from both individuals. The passion mentors have to pass on their learned skills and behaviors on the field also apply with those in the government arena. Mentors and mentees, it's **TIME TO PLAY BALL!**

Take a minute to consider the professional benefits of mentoring. To learn more about NAVAIR'S Mentoring Program, visit <https://mentoring.navair.navy.mil> or contact Donna Belcher (NAVAIR'S Mentoring Program Manager) at 301.342.5096. If you have a personal mentoring success story to share, contact Veronica Miskowski at 301.757.8391 or Lonnie Snead at 301.757.8252. We'd love to hear from you.