“Anchors Aweigh” was originally composed in 1906 as a football marching song for the U.S. Naval Academy. The music and lyrics were written by Naval Academy Bandmaster Charles A. Zimmerman and Midshipman First Class Alfred H. Miles.

The march was first performed in December 1906 at the Army-Navy football game. The song was credited with helping Navy beat Army for the first time since 1900.

Twenty years later, the lyrics were updated to reflect the fighting spirit of the entire Navy. Midshipman Royal Lovell, Class of 1926, wrote the third stanza. Later, composer George D. Lottman wrote the popular verses that were widely used for the next 70 years.

In 1942, Commander Alfred H. Miles, USN, (Ret.) wrote a new Anchors Aweigh Victory verse that was intended to inspire Sailors fighting in World War II. In 1997, MCPON John Hagan added a new verse which he thought “all Sailors could relate to.”

Today, “Anchors Aweigh” speaks directly to our great Naval History and reflects the spirit and sacrifice of Sailors - past and present. Navy personnel stand at attention during the playing of Anchors Aweigh and render the same honors to the Marine Hymn and the Coast Guard Song, “Semper Paratus.”

http://www.usna.edu/USNABand/biographies/ZimmermannBio.htm