



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN  
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY  
101 BUCHANAN ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5100

22 December 2009

Dear Parents, Relatives, and Friends,

Now that final exams are complete and the fall semester is behind us, I wanted to provide one final update in 2009 on the tremendous achievements the Brigade has amassed. I was extremely proud of our midshipmen as they diligently prepared for the final academic challenges of the semester while simultaneously displaying an enthusiastic and professional spirit in support of Army-Navy Week. The Brigade's inspirational effort and thirst for a record 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive Commander in Chief's trophy were instrumental in the Navy Football Team's hard fought victory over Army on 12 DEC. I remain hugely proud of the Brigade and its dedication to representing the Face of the Navy at a nationally recognized event and am humbled by their patriotism and passion. I also want to thank all of you who cheered Navy to a victory over Army both in person in Philadelphia and from your hometowns—your support is absolutely appreciated.

Many of our other athletic teams and extra-curricular organizations have also continued to exceed all expectations at the end of the semester. Of note, both our men's and women's swimming and diving teams handedly defeated Army, complimenting an already exciting Army Week! We look forward to furthering our winning tradition in all of our sports and ECA's during this coming winter and spring seasons. I would also like to encourage the entire Naval Academy Family to support our football team one last time this season as they travel to Houston to take on the University of Missouri in the Texas Bowl on 31 DEC. In the spirit of accomplishing this, the Brigade leadership team continues to encourage Brigade attendance for all those who can make the trip. I absolutely remain cognizant of the fact the bowl game falls during precious leave time and I certainly want all our midshipmen to spend as much time as possible with you. However, as our football team represents USNA in the national spotlight, we are providing an accessible and very attractive opportunity for interested midshipmen and families to attend the Texas Bowl. We are all tremendously proud of this achievement and I am excited to see you in Houston!

As we continue to look forward to the many important upcoming events in the spring semester, I thought you would find the following dates of particular interest to help solidify your planning and scheduling:

- End-of-Semester Leave/ 23 Dec – 08 Jan Leave expires (all classes)  
Reform of the Brigade  
at 1800
- Classes Begin 12 Jan
- Spring Break 12-21 March MIDN may depart on leave  
following their last military  
obligation on 12 March; liberty  
expires for all class at 1800 on 21  
March

As promised, USNA finally received its complete shipment of the H1N1 vaccination on 07 DEC and our superb medical team immediately enacted its pre-approved plan to administer this mandatory vaccine to all midshipmen. Since then, all midshipmen have been vaccinated with minimal impact on their examination schedules. To date, we have not seen any adverse reactions as we continue to track this issue with our midshipmen departing on winter leave. Our vigilance in preventing the spread of H1N1 has proven highly successful and will remain high throughout the Holiday Season as our midshipmen return from the winter leave period. As always, any remaining affected midshipmen will be professionally cared for and supported in designated isolation rooms within company spaces. For the most current information regarding preventative measures and cases, please continue to refer to the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/). I will continue to keep you updated if any new H1N1 related developments or other medical issues arise.

In the wake of our midshipmen returning home to family and friends for a much anticipated Holiday Season, I kindly ask that you remain alert during this busy time and carefully consider safety measures in your travel plans. Every single one of our midshipmen is critically important to me, the Brigade, and the Naval Academy Family, and I look forward to welcoming all of them back to USNA on 08 January. I anticipate providing another update shortly after the commencement of spring classes. In the meantime, please accept my warmest wishes for an enjoyable, rewarding Holiday Season and a safe and healthy New Year. I hope all of our Naval Academy Families continue to be blessed and I look forward to seeing you during the spring semester.

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!



Matt Klunder  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commandant of Midshipmen