



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

4 December 2009

Dear Parents, Relatives, and Friends,

With the majority of the fall semester behind us, the Brigade continues to impress me as our midshipmen prepare for final examinations and demonstrate fantastic spirit during this traditionally high tempo season. Grade submissions for the 12 week marking period were recently completed and the Brigade's average GPA successfully met our important historical trends, indicating the required academic focus and the tremendous ability to balance the excitement of extra curricular activities and physical requirements with the inherent rigors of USNA's academic pace. With so many Brigade successes this semester, I want to pass along a well deserved thank you to the Faculty, Staff, Alumni Association & Foundation, the Parent's Organizations, our extended Naval Academy Family, and the local community. All have worked diligently to ensure the continued success and commitment of the Brigade and I am hugely appreciative.

Many of our athletic teams and extra-curricular organizations have flourished this semester. I want to particularly highlight the success of our football team and congratulate them and the entire Brigade for its unending support during their road to victory! As you may already be aware, the Naval Academy Football Team earned an invitation to the Texas Bowl in Houston while continuing their winning tradition at Notre Dame on 07 November. With this in mind, our goal is to encourage as much Brigade and Naval Academy Family support as we cheer our team to a Navy victory against Army and a bowl victory on 31 DEC. In the spirit of accomplishing this, the Brigade leadership team continues to encourage Brigade attendance for all who volunteer. I absolutely remain cognizant of the fact that the bowl game falls during precious and hard earned leave for our midshipmen and would never encroach upon their time with you. However, as our football team represents USNA in the national spotlight, we are providing an accessible and 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 as we close out the fall season, I thought you would find the following list of particular interest to help solidify your planning and scheduling:

- Examination Period 15-22 December Examination Period (MIDN may depart on leave following their last exam/military obligation)
- End-of-Semester Leave/
Reform of the Brigade 23 Dec – 08 Jan Leave expires (all classes) at 1800
- Classes Begin 12 Jan

Finally, our vigilance in preventing the spread of H1N1 remains high and I would like to reassure you that the USNA medical team is continuing to take the same proven measures to prevent the spread of H1N1 and has a plan in place to administer the vaccine immediately upon arrival to all midshipmen. In the meantime, any remaining affected midshipmen have been residing in designated isolation rooms within company spaces and continue to receive the same important level of personal care. For the most current information regarding preventative measures and cases, please continue to refer to the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ . I will continue to keep you updated as any new H1N1 related developments arise.

I anticipate providing another update later in December on the Brigade's fall semester progress and key upcoming events during the spring semester. In the interim, the USNA family is gearing up for an exciting Army Week and 110th football contest between Navy and our neighbors on the Hudson on Saturday, 12 DEC. This is a hugely anticipated time for all of us and I truly hope you are able to make the trip to Philadelphia to support our midshipmen. Please accept my warmest wishes for a superb and rewarding Holiday Season and I look forward to sending our midshipmen back home to you again safely in the very near future.

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt J. Klunder", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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