



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

23 December 2008

Dear Parents, Relatives and Friends,

Fall semester has officially come to an end; exams have been taken, Bancroft Hall is quiet and most Midshipmen have reached their holiday leave destinations. I know it has been a short time since the last letter, but I wanted to highlight some significant milestones that have occurred since November. Back in early December, I was extremely proud of the tremendous Brigade spirit demonstrated in the days leading up to and during the exciting Navy football victory over Army. Our Midshipmen's performance and conduct during the special event in Philadelphia was outstanding and I also want to thank you for your superb support at the game. More recently, at the culmination of exams last week, many Midshipmen along with their local USNA supporters were given the opportunity to cheer their team on at the Eagle Bank Bowl in DC. Unfortunately Navy was defeated by Wake Forest, but the team and Brigade once again displayed that "never give up" spirit as we battled them right up to the closing seconds. Football season is now officially over and we look forward to showing the same spirit and heart in supporting our winter and spring teams.

I know most of our Midshipmen are home with you right now enjoying this wonderful family time, but before you know it they will be back with us in Bancroft Hall. With that in mind, please review some of these important dates for your planning and scheduling purposes:

End-of-Semester Leave	04 January	Leave expires (all classes) at 2200
Classes Begin	07 January	
Spring Break	14 March	MIDN may depart on leave following their last military/academic obligation
	22 March	Leave Expires (all classes) at 1800

Overall, it has been a hugely rewarding semester filled with many great achievements. As we reflect on the successes and blessings of the past 4 months, please also take a moment to look back at the last year and remember the tragic loss of our family members Tony, Kristen, Aaron and Fred. These young people will never be forgotten and I assure you they will be part of our USNA Family forever. I also ask that you keep our forward deployed troops and USNA family members in your thoughts and prayers as they spend this holiday season in harms way.

Our spring semester is right around the corner and I pray for everyone's safe return on 04 January. During this joyous holiday season, we are always thankful for the blessings bestowed upon the Naval Academy Family and hope that you will have a wonderfully safe and prosperous Holiday Season & New Year. Thank you for your impressive support of the Brigade and please continue to keep our young men and women in your thoughts and prayers. Best of Health!

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!

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