



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

25 February 2010

Dear Parents, Relatives, and Friends,

With the spring semester well underway and our midshipmen wrapping up their first exam period of the term, I wanted to take this opportunity to showcase some of the Brigade's recent accomplishments. While the Brigade has always exhibited a commitment in its call to serve, hundreds of midshipmen recently volunteered to assist the Annapolis Community during the numerous snow storms this winter. Their countless hours of service over a two week period will be honored in the coming days by members of the City of Annapolis Legislature in front of the Brigade and local media. Along the same lines, our midshipmen have dutifully remained engaged in their coursework despite the effect of inclement weather on class schedules. Their efforts, combined with the superb teamwork of our dedicated faculty and staff, have ensured there will be no long-term effects on class scheduling or impacts on weekends or scheduled leave periods such as Spring Break.

Recently, we were very excited to provide special dinners in honor of the 1/C MIDN who have selected each Naval and Marine Corps warfare community. Additionally, the Brigade has been privileged to host a number of Flag and General Officers and other distinguished service members from around the Fleet who have contributed immeasurably to the growing excitement of the upcoming graduation on May 28th for the Class of 2010. Another special event the Brigade recently hosted was the Inaugural Grand Memorial Ball on January 30th. This memorable evening was in honor of those members of the Naval Academy Family who have passed away either as midshipmen or in the line of duty in the past 25 years. This spectacular event, attended by over 1,200 midshipmen and guests, was truly a one of a kind event, sparking camaraderie and fellowship amongst the Brigade, local community, and our extended family. I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all those involved in making this event such an unprecedented success and for laying the foundation for many years to follow!

As we continue to look forward to the many important upcoming events during the highly anticipated spring season, I thought you would find the following list helpful in solidifying your plans and schedules:


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| • Spring Leave Period | 12-21 March | MIDN may depart on leave following their last military obligation |
| • Classes End | 05 May | |
| • Final Examination Period | 06-13 May | Intersessional leave commences after last military obligation/exam (all classes) |
| • Intersessional Leave Expiration | 16 May | 2/C, 3/C, 4/C MIDN (2200) |

- Intersessional Leave 18 May 1/C MIDN (1800)
Expiration
- Commissioning Week 22-28 May

In addition to the Brigade's numerous achievements, many of our athletic teams and extra-curricular organizations have also continued to exceed all expectations over the past several weeks. Our men's and women's basketball teams both handedly defeated Army in a thrilling home doubleheader in January and the women defeated them for a second time this past weekend, earning the coveted N Star for this season. Continuing USNA's winning tradition versus our service academy rival, the Navy Wrestling Team dominated the Black Knights 26-6, extending its victory run to 10 consecutive wins over Army. These thrilling defeats, as well as our men's and women's Patriot League Swimming Championships, have added to the growing springtime morale at USNA and we all look forward to many key matchups in the future!

As the spring semester continues to unfold and the pace of activities both on the Yard and in the local community gains momentum, I hope all of you can find an opportunity to join us in Annapolis for one of our many Brigade events. In the meantime, please know that we keep everyone in our Naval Academy Family in our thoughts and prayers and I look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!


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