



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
121 BLAKE ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

March 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL USNA MIDSHIPMEN

FROM: Superintendent

SUBJ: Navigating the 2020 Spring Semester through Coronavirus

1. First, I want to thank you for your patience. Know that the staff and faculty back here in Annapolis are working extraordinarily hard under rapidly evolving circumstances to ensure your academic and professional success.
2. Last week, the decision was made to delay your return until the weekend of 28 March, but given how rapidly the disease has spread and the response efforts locally, nationally and within the DoD, I have decided to delay the return of the Brigade until further notice for the health and safety of our entire Naval Academy family. At this point, there is simply too much uncertainty with this virus and the associated risk to bring the Brigade back.
3. Remote classes begin Friday, March 20, following the normal daily schedule on Eastern Daylight Time until further notice, and I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring you are literally plugged in and ready to go. Do not suffer in silence! If you are having connectivity issues that impede your ability to learn, notify your chain of command, as well as your specific faculty instructors, immediately. It is also your responsibility to check your email frequently and respond to messages as requested in a timely fashion. As members of the Armed Forces, you are midshipmen 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You represent the Naval Academy whether you are in or out of uniform. You still have military obligations, and attending class is a military obligation.
4. I want to reinforce that spring break is over. I want to make sure it is abundantly clear that you are in a duty status at your current location. The Department of Defense (to include the Brigade of Midshipmen) is subject to a "Stop Movement" order through May 11, restricting all travel to your local area, which I have defined as 150 miles from your current residence or domicile. Additionally, some of you have been placed in 14-day Restriction of Movement, or quarantine, due to your recent travel in high-risk locations or exposure to individuals with COVID-19. You cannot "test-out" or be cleared out of ROM prior to the 14-day expiration. I know these travel restrictions and health protection measures are limiting and challenging, but they are in place to limit further spread of the coronavirus disease. Those who violate these orders without my explicit approval will be held appropriately accountable – STAY PUT!
5. Last, but certainly not least, take care of yourselves and each other. Continue to maintain your high physical fitness level. I can confidently say no other group of Naval Academy classes has ever experienced a challenge like this – you are the first, and I know you will meet and exceed my expectations of you.
6. This is uncharted territory for every single one of us – expect there to be more changes, and that we'll have to refine guidance. But in the end, we will get through this and be better. I am confident you will do exactly what the Navy expects of us: learn to adapt, demonstrate self-discipline and take initiative to accomplish the mission – in this case, complete the semester, and graduate and commission the class of 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean S. Buck".

S. S. BUCK  
VADM USN