Commandant’s Training Guidance

1. Situation. After observing the Brigade of Midshipmen and evaluating our execution of the Mission of the Naval Academy and my Intent over the last semester, I believe we must be more deliberate and efficient in how we use our time for the remainder of this Academic Year. We must focus on upholding the highest standards expected of ALL midshipmen specifically in the areas of Living Honorably, Professionalism, and Training. I now realize that we cannot assume that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities therefore special emphasis will be placed on showing “what right looks like”. This will require engaged leadership at every level.

2. Approach. I fully understand how valuable every midshipman’s time is and the numerous commitments that are pulling at this finite resource. The focus of this effort is to more deliberately use the time allotted for professional (leadership and character) development every day. The Midshipmen Training Program (MTP), COMDTMIDNINST 1600.4G, lays out in detail the roles and responsibilities of all classes as well as guidance on the requirements to develop training plans at all levels. We will fully understand and execute this program as a Brigade at all levels.

3. Tasks (Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR)/ Office of Coordinating Responsibility (OCR)

   a. All members of my staff and every member of the Brigade shall read the MTP no later than 11 January 2022. (All, OPR: Brigade Commander for midshipmen)

   b. Each Company shall hold a training session for each class on roles and responsibilities no later than 11 January 2022. (OPR: Company Officer (CO)/Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL), OCR: Training Officer)

   c. Battalion and Company Leadership supported by the Brigade Leadership shall develop, implement, and oversee training as per the MTP. The Commandant of Midshipmen will be provided a training update on a monthly basis. (OPR: Battalion Officers, OCR: Training Officer)

   d. Training Plans shall be developed at echelon based on this guidance with emphasis not just on Plebe Professional Knowledge and Professional Competency Assessment preparation, but on repeated and deliberate engagements on leadership, honor, and character development reinforcing what is learned in Luce Hall. (OPR: Battalion Officers, OCR: Training Officer)

   e. When COVID-19 protocols allow, all Squads shall sit according to Standard Operating Procedures. Squad Leaders shall be responsible for accountability and ensuring a professional decorum at their table. (OPR: Brigade leadership)
f. All midshipmen shall be conversant in current events relevant to the Navy and Marine Corps with a special emphasis on Warfighting. (OPR: Brigade Leadership)

g. All upper-class midshipmen shall assume the responsibility for training their teams as per the MTP. Every 3/C, 2/C, and 1/C Midshipman is a leader regardless of having a billet. Training staff is only there to support; upper-class midshipmen are responsible for training. (OPR: Brigade leadership, OCR: Training Officer)

h. When leading a Physical Training event, upper-class midshipmen shall participate unless serving in a dedicated safety role. Lead from the front. (All)

i. Billet holders from squad leader on up are expected to be engaged leaders and shall be held responsible for knowing their people and their unit’s performance in all areas. (OPR: CO/SEL, OCR: Brigade leadership)

4. Applicability. This guidance does not limit a leader’s initiative or creativity, rather it provides guidance within which to accomplish the mission. Individual initiative is essential to success. This guidance applies to all midshipmen and those who support the professional development of midshipmen. If there is a conflict with how a midshipmen's time is utilized and the Table of Priorities does not answer the question, the resolution will be based on what best prepares the midshipmen to be a selfless leader of character ready to lead from day one.

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Commandant of Midshipmen