



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

April 10, 2020

Dear Brigade and Parents:

Due to the national impact of the coronavirus pandemic, I have canceled our traditional Commissioning Week public events. This was a very difficult decision to come to and taken only after thorough consideration and consultation with my entire leadership team. I believe this is a necessary decision in order to safeguard the health and welfare of the entire Naval Academy family and local community, which has been my number one strategic priority since the onset of this pandemic.

What does this mean, exactly? Unfortunately, it means our family and friends from all over the country, all over the world, will not be able to travel to Annapolis to celebrate the achievements of their beloved midshipmen during a traditional Commissioning Week. As both a Naval Academy graduate and a parent, I appreciate how disappointing and heartbreaking it is to hear this.

I still intend to accomplish my number two strategic priority, which is to graduate and commission each member of the Class of 2020 on time, May 22. It will not, unfortunately, be the traditional event we have all grown accustomed to witness. The Class of 2020 has worked tirelessly for nearly four years for this milestone — I believe we owe it to them to exhaust all efforts in our decision-making and planning process to make this time special for them, within the guidelines we are operating under. My team is putting in overtime to determine when, where, and how a virtual ceremony will look like, and we will share that plan with you once we have it.

For the Classes of '21, '22, and '23, we will revisit dates for your milestone class events as soon as social-distancing protocols allow us to do so.

I also intend to accomplish my third COVID-19 strategic priority, which is to induct the Class of 2024 this summer although we are still examining how we will accomplish that. I am relying on the leadership of the classes of '21 and '22 to execute that plan when the time comes. We are also working closely with the Fleet and our faculty to determine the best way ahead to execute summer military and academic training. More word to follow.

I have said this before, and I will say it again — we are in uncharted, uncertain, and unprecedented times as we combat the coronavirus. There are no recent precedents to fall back on. I want to commend you all on the grit and grace you have exhibited during this challenging time — parents, that includes you, too. You ALL have a lot to be proud of, and you have a lot to look forward to in the future. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean S. Buck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

S. S. BUCK
Vice Admiral, USN
Superintendent