



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE DEPARTMENT
101 BUCHANAN ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21402

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SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE ETIQUETTE INFORMATION

Admiral Michael M. Gilday, current Chief of Naval Operations and a 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, has communicated to the fleet his expectations for the behavior of personnel in the workplace and online. His message, that maintaining our combat advantage requires members of the Navy team to respect one another, makes clear the responsibility you are assuming as you enter the Naval Academy. He specifically addresses how online misbehavior including bullying, hazing, harassment, stalking, discrimination, and retaliation, reduces our capabilities and weakens our ability to fight. He calls on each officer and sailor to stop these behaviors anywhere they are found, and he makes it clear that a service member's conduct, even online, affects our fighting forces.

As a midshipman candidate and future officer in the Naval Services, you will be expected to follow the highest ideals of our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, as well as, to adhere to the highest standards of moral and ethical character in everything you do. You will be representing the United States Naval Academy and the United States Navy.

Upon reporting for induction, all electronic devices will be taken away with no access to them or the internet during the six (6) week period of Plebe Summer. They will be returned after Plebe Summer. In preparation, you are advised to take the following steps prior to reporting:

- Remove inappropriate photos, posts, tweets, videos, etc.
- "Unfriend" people as necessary.
- Remember you are accountable for what you say and do online, as much as, in "real life."
- Be aware of who you like and who you are following; it portrays you.
- Be aware of who is really "friending you."
- Consider the level of security provided by the social media sites, gaming sites, chat rooms, blogs, forums, and any other sites you visit.
- Be aware of your privacy settings.
- Be aware that at all times your social media presence, whether on professional networking platforms or anonymous posting applications, shall be in keeping of the standards and expectations of the Department of Defense, Navy, and Naval Academy

The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) applies on the internet just like anywhere else.

- The UCMJ and Navy Regulations specifically prohibit a wide variety of inappropriate behavior which may not be illegal for civilians. This applies to anything you say (write/post/share on the internet), even when you are NOT making it in an official Navy capacity. For example:
 - Article 88: Contempt toward public officials (i.e. "I think the President is a &#\$@!")
 - Article 89: Disrespect toward a superior commissioned officer (i.e. "I think my Company Officer is a &#\$@!")
 - Article 92: Violation of an order or regulation (e.g. racist/sexist comments about a fellow midshipman that creates a hostile working environment, in violation of Navy policy against discrimination)
 - Behavior that constitutes conduct unbecoming of a midshipman, is service-discrediting, or is detrimental to good order and discipline at the Naval Academy.
- This applies to any content you post on social networking sites, blogs, forums, photo and video-sharing sites, and other people's sites. Content includes, but is not limited to, personal comments, photographs, videos, graphics, and names.
- A midshipman candidate who violates these rules and such behavior comes to the attention of USNA, risk revocation of his or her offer of admission. A midshipman who violates these rules risks disciplinary and/or administrative action, to include possible separation from USNA.

I, _____, have read and understand the above information regarding my social media profile and usage.

Signature

Print Name (Last Name, First Name)