



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
101 CALVERT ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-5100

5 January 2026

COMMANDANT'S INTENT

Our purpose is unchanged: to commission leaders of uncompromising character who are ready to lead our nation's calling. The current global security environment demands not only academic proficiency; it also requires a warrior's mindset and a relentless pursuit of excellence in character and as leaders. This memo outlines three pillars that will shape our culture and our conduct.

Warrior Mindset

Everything we do from the classroom to the athletic fields is grounded in the ultimate reality of our profession; the preparation for lethal application of fleet and maritime power and sustained tactical proficiency in your chosen warfighting community. Our academic, military and physical mission is in the context of the world you will enter and be expected to perform immediately after graduation. Understanding our platforms, our adversaries, and the maritime domain is not optional.

- Grit: We must hone the determination to thrive in conflict and the challenges you will face in life. You are not just students; you are junior officers in training for the most demanding jobs we are asked to do.

Continuous Character Development - In Everything we do

Trust is the foundation of command leadership. Without absolute integrity, our technical skills are meaningless.

- Our Honor System: This is not a set of rules to be navigated, but a lifestyle to be lived. Integrity must be at your core, especially when no one is watching.
- Resilience and Self-Discipline: Character is revealed through hardship and adherence to high-standards. We will embrace challenges, own our failures without excuse, and hold ourselves and shipmates to the standards and discipline that will earn your trust as you prepare to lead in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Leadership at Every Level

Leadership is not merely a function of rank; it is a function of influence and responsibility.

- Ownership: From each Plebe to the Brigade Commander, every Midshipman is responsible for the climate and performance of USNA. If you see a standard not being met, you have the duty to correct it.
- Servant Leadership: To lead is to serve. Our focus is on the welfare of our subordinates and the success of the mission through process, never on personal podium or comfort.

The nation expects its Naval Academy to produce leaders who are ready to lead under fire. We cannot fail that expectation.

Execution

I expect every member of the Brigade to internalize these principles of service and evaluate your daily actions against them. We will maintain a strong focus on the continuous development as a warfighter, a leader, and as Midshipmen of character. I trust your commitment all the way through the finish.

CAPT Austin 'AJ' Jackson
Commandant of Midshipmen