



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN  
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY  
101 BUCHANAN ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5100

September 2, 2008

Dear Parents, Relatives and Friends,

The entire Brigade of Midshipmen recently returned to Bancroft Hall and the fall semester of Academic Year 2009 has officially started! It is an absolutely tremendous feeling having our USNA Family back together again. Before I begin discussing the upcoming semester, however, I would like to share with you the very sad news that occurred over the summer. If you were unaware, we lost one of our family members, MIDN 1/C Aaron Reaves, 13<sup>th</sup> Company. He was involved in a tragic automobile accident and we ask that you keep his family, friends, classmates and company mates in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to mourn this tragic loss. Members of the Brigade honored MIDN Reaves' life on Monday, 18 August during a funeral service in the Naval Academy Chapel. We were also there with him during his interment at Arlington Cemetery. We will miss him terribly.

As we begin to look to the future for the Brigade, I thought it might be helpful to first recognize some of the impressive success stories from this summer. With our Plebe summer now officially closed, we want to recognize the Class of 2009 for its superb leadership skills as detailers and the Class of 2012 for its inspiring team spirit and achieving the lowest summer attrition total in Naval Academy history. The Plebe summer evolution was a challenging and intense training experience and we are very proud of our 1/C and 4/C family members for their exceptional performance. The attrition number I referenced (23) was so low that we actually had to expand the number of rooms for certain company's at reform. For the rest of the USNA Family, the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> block of summer training marked the culmination of a summer filled with memorable Fleet experiences and valuable leadership development. The actual reform evolution was smooth and successful, and the Brigade attended their first day of classes on Wednesday, 20 August. Our first big Pep Rally of this academic year was this past Tuesday and I am convinced that the Brigade's spirit was a major factor in the Football team's brilliant 41-13 victory over Towson. Our other Fall Sports Teams are also doing exceptionally well and are totally geared up for the upcoming season. Let's just say the atmosphere around the Yard is one of extreme excitement and anticipation and the Midshipmen appear ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead for this semester.

The upcoming semester has already witnessed a number of exciting events and milestones. The Class of 2010 has been quite busy since reform, signing their 2 for 7 commitments and participating in the traditional 2/C Commitment Dinner, where they, together with the Class of 1960, celebrated their honorable commitment to future service in the fleet. The Class of 2011 is currently hard at work in their new role as mentors for the Class of 2012 and the Faculty and Staff are enthusiastically planning for a number of special events and reunions on the Yard. On the horizon, we have our first away football game versus Ball State this Friday (a sizeable group of Midshipmen will be attending); the 1/C and 2/C Parents Weekend 19-21 September; and Community Assignment Night for our 1/C is tentatively scheduled for the week of 17 November.

As we look at these upcoming important events, I thought you might be interested again in recognizing the following dates for planning and scheduling purposes:

- 1/C & 2/C Parents Weekend 19-21 September
- Thanksgiving Break 26 November Early academic schedule (MIDN can depart on leave following their last academic /military obligation)
- 30 November Leave expires (all classes) at 1800
- End-of-Semester Leave 11-18 December Examination Period (MIDN can depart on leave following their last exam/military obligation)
- 04 January Leave expires (all classes) at 1800

We are all certain that Academic Year 2009 will produce impressive results from our Brigade of Midshipmen. I want to again promise you my commitment to taking care of your young men and women and we will always attempt to set them up for future success as they enter our Navy and Marine Corps Team. I plan on talking to you all again when the fall semester is approximately half way complete and at that time I should have additional updates to provide. I wish you the Best of Health and ask you to always keep our young men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!



Matt Klunder  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commandant of Midshipmen