



Commandant's Standing Order #1

We are a nation at war and when our time here together ends we will be called upon to lead Sailors and Marines into dangerous, complex and challenging situations in support of national objectives or defense of national interests. Our Sailors and Marines do not get to choose their leaders, but they and our nation expect the very best of each one of us that have had the honor and privilege to wear the Navy Blue & Gold. Reaching our individual and collective potentials in the Moral, Mental, and Physical mission areas must be our focus and exceeding expectations our routine.

There are five ideals that I feel are fundamental to success, and each of us, at all levels of the chain of command, should routinely reflect on these ideals and adopt their underlying principles.

- **Fighting Spirit.** Approach each and every day with a burning desire to improve upon the success of those who came before us by maintaining and pushing ourselves and others with a sense of commitment and resolve. Each of us has a potential for excellence, and can accomplish anything with hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Strive to reach your potential for excellence and in turn you will be catalytic in the improvement of our collective potential for excellence. Hope is not a military plan of action - be proactive in all endeavors, not reactive.
- **Integrity.** Demand total honesty and forthrightness in our words and deeds. Never be afraid to admit a mistake, and always learn from your mistakes and the mistakes of others. We will do what is right and not always what is easy, no matter what the ramifications.
- **Respect.** Respect yourself, others, and our Academy. Our appearance, demeanor, and environment will be second to none. Others will know us by what we do, how we act, how we treat others and how we look. We will not leave a fallen comrade in the field, so don't let a fellow Midshipman stray down a path that would be detrimental to our Moral, Mental, or Physical mission areas – be a true Shipmate!
- **Safety.** Maintaining a safe environment, or doing an evolution safely must be at the forefront of everything we do. Training, formality, procedural compliance, and supervision are essential to ensure day-to-day safety. Never pass up an opportunity to mentor or train.
- **Teamwork.** We all have contributions to make, and conversely we all have things to learn. No one person has all the answers, and no one person can solve all the problems. Maintain a questioning attitude during every evolution and always have the courage to point out shortfalls in order to ensure safety and mission accomplishment. Foster teamwork and exercise forceful backup to ensure success - if properly placed and executed it is Peer Leadership that will be the guiding light for success.

We have a unique bond to United States Naval Academy graduates of the past by a sense of service to our country through honor, courage, and commitment. It is a privilege to be a member of the U. S. Naval Academy family, and it is each and every one of our responsibilities to ensure our actions and deeds honor those that have come before us and the sacrifices they have made. I am honored and extremely humbled to be the 84th Commandant of Midshipmen, and look forward to the challenges and successes that we will face together in the future. We will motivate and drive each other in the pursuit of excellence, while tempering our passion with the understanding that we will make mistakes, but with those mistakes we will learn and become better professionals, warriors, and eventually leaders of the greatest Maritime Force on the face of the earth!

Be The Best & Go Navy!

84th Commandant of Midshipmen