



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

6 October 2009

Dear Parents, Relatives, and Friends,

With the fall semester's six-week exam period in the rear view mirror, you should all be exceptionally proud of the high level of effort and professionalism demonstrated by the Brigade. From the assumption of command by our first class midshipmen to the transition of our fourth class from Plebe Summer to the classroom, the Brigade has enthusiastically embraced each and every challenge they have encountered. I hope that you were one of the nearly 38,000 fans packed into Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium this past weekend. Our hard fought overtime victory against Air Force was one of the most dramatic in history and would make any American proud of the dedication and spirit exhibited by the two teams on the field.

In recognition of the continual outstanding performance and enthusiastic professional execution of the Brigade since the reform period in August, I have awarded a "weekend" for all eligible midshipmen during the Columbus Day holiday weekend. The following are the approved guidelines for "weekend" liberty:

**1/C: Liberty commences after last military obligation, 09 OCT**

**2/C: Liberty commences at 1830, 09 OCT**

**3/C: Liberty commences at 0800, 10 OCT**

**4/C: Liberty commences at 1200, 10 OCT**

**\*\*Liberty expires for all MIDN at 1800 on Monday, 12 OCT**

I sincerely hope that this opportunity affords the maximum number of midshipmen some time to relax and reflect on their numerous accomplishments thus far, and I look forward to their safe return – rested and ready to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Finally, I would like to provide a quick update on our H1N1 and seasonal flu situation within the Brigade. I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the exceptional response of the Naval Academy's Health Clinic Staff, working in conjunction with my key staff members, we have seen a marked decrease in the number of midshipmen experiencing flu-like symptoms. Due to the strong precautionary measures taken by our professional Midshipmen throughout the Brigade and our ability to sustain an effective isolation ward within Bancroft Hall, the number of isolated midshipmen has been kept at manageable levels with only small impacts on the Naval Academy mission. While my staff and I recognize that we are clearly not free of all potential for the spread of H1N1 and seasonal flu, we are confident that we have implemented an effective protocol to prevent the spread of the flu and absolutely take care of all our Naval Academy members. Although details are still being finalized, we do anticipate the arrival of the H1N1 vaccine sometime between the weeks of 12 and 19 October. Upon receipt, immunization will be mandatory for all active duty personnel, to include midshipmen, unless pre-existing allergies prevent immunization. Our faculty and civilian work force will also be provided vaccines and those exact dates will be promulgated as soon as available. As always, our top priority is to ensure the safety and well being of all our Midshipmen, faculty, and military and civilian staff.

Again, I'd ask that you continue to remain vigilant about your own health and consider visiting your own care provider at the first sign of flu-like symptoms, especially since many of your midshipmen will return home during Columbus Day Weekend. For the most current information regarding preventative measures and cases, please refer to the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/). I will continue to keep you updated as any new H1N1 related developments arise. In closing, I'd like to thank you for your continued tremendous support for the Naval Academy and the Brigade of Midshipmen.

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt J. Klunder", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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