



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
121 BLAKE ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

October 23, 2020

Dear USNA Family:

Today, I proudly join the Superintendent of U.S. Military Academy in announcing that we will meet Army, West Point on the gridiron once again in the 121st playing of the Army Navy Football Game. The matchup this year will be played at Michie Stadium in West Point with the entire Brigade of Midshipmen and Corps of Cadets in attendance. The game is being moved from Philadelphia due to attendance limits placed on outdoor events in the state of Pennsylvania that would not allow the entire Brigade of Midshipmen and Corps of Cadets to attend. Emblematic of the unusual circumstances this year, this matchup marks the first time the Army Navy Game has been played at a home site since World War II when Annapolis hosted the 1942 game and West Point the 1943 game.

Similar to the 1920s Spanish Flu Era and the 1940s wartime era, the COVID pandemic has created enormous hurdles to conducting competitive athletics. However, the physical mission remains incredibly important in the lives and development of our midshipmen; athletic competition builds stamina, grit, resilience, and inculcates a competitive mindset and a winning spirit which are essential characteristics of a naval officer. As a result, our team at NAAA and our counterparts across our various athletics conferences have diligently worked to create a safe environment for all of our athletes to continue competition during the 2020-2021 season. And, as any Naval Academy graduate knows, there is no competition more important each season for fostering that competitive mindset and institutional pride than our matchups against Army, in particular the Army Navy Football game.

Navy Athletics Director Chet Gladchuk, Army Athletic Director Mike Buddie, and West Point Superintendent Lieutenant General Williams, and I are grateful to the City of Philadelphia, the Eagles, and all involved for their efforts to host this historic game in the current COVID-19 environment. However, the issue of greatest importance to us throughout this entire process was the health, safety and welfare of the Corps of Cadets and the Brigade of Midshipmen. As a unified Army-Navy team, we are excited about this historic opportunity to play this year's matchup in a format and location reminiscent of our earliest Army Navy games.

At this point, it is unlikely there will be fan attendance allowed at Michie Stadium beyond the Corps of Cadets and Brigade of Midshipmen. However, we know Navy fans around the world will support us in spirit via the televised broadcast on CBS Sports. We look forward to cheering on Navy shoulder-to-shoulder with our extended Naval Academy family once again in December 2021 in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

This past year the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to how we execute our moral, mental, and physical mission here at the Naval Academy and our sister service academies. I am proud of how our entire team here in Annapolis has demonstrated incredible flexibility, adaptability, and leadership to ensure we continue to develop midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically in order to commission leaders for the Fleet.

Go Navy! Beat Army!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean S. Buck".

S. S. BUCK  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Superintendent