



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

26 February 2010

Dear Parents, Relatives, and Friends,

On behalf of the Superintendent, I would like to formally announce the graduation dates for the Classes of 2012 and 2013. **The Class of 2012 will be scheduled to graduate on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 and the Class of 2013 will be scheduled to graduate on Tuesday, May 28, 2013.** The most significant change to our past schedules is the move of the graduation and commissioning ceremonies for these classes to the Tuesday following Memorial Day Weekend. The impetus for these changes was to provide additional time for USNA leadership to complete important end-of-year academic assessment processes and enable a more thorough evaluation of midshipmen's academic performance. This revised timeline should allow us to better determine eligibility for advancement, graduation/commissioning, and summer school and summer training requirements. Additionally, USNA desires to mitigate traffic congestion in the Annapolis area which has proven to be rather intense as we traditionally host over 30,000 midshipmen, family, and friends during Commissioning Week. In the interest of continuing to facilitate the superb relationship USNA enjoys with the Annapolis Community, the Naval Academy Family has chosen to recognize these additional considerations in its Commissioning Week plans.

To provide a little further background for this new decision, USNA considered the following items which might assist in your planning:

- Tens of thousands of drivers (many from metro Washington, DC, northern Virginia, and Pennsylvania) converge on U.S. Route 50 East near Annapolis as they begin the drive eastward to the beaches of the Maryland and Delaware Eastern Shore for Memorial Day Weekend.
- This new schedule will provide families extended time to travel safely in advance of Graduation Day and other Commissioning Week ceremonies and events.
- This will allow for more of the Naval Academy Family to enjoy Commissioning Week events such as the Blue Angel's practice and demonstration, scheduled to be held on the Saturday and Sunday, respectively, before the Tuesday graduation. Additionally, the Color Parade, now scheduled on Memorial Day, will serve as USNA's opportunity to properly recognize this prestigious holiday with the broader Naval Academy Family.

In light of these changes, USNA's tremendously hard working staff has been careful to preserve the relative dates of bedrock Academy events such as summer training, Plebe Summer Induction Day, Fall Semester Reform of the Brigade, as well as key academic milestones necessary to complete throughout the year. Equally as important is honoring the precious leave time of our midshipmen in conjunction with executing a summer schedule that will preserve the requisite training requirements for each class. The Naval Academy frequently re-assesses our internal processes for potential improvements in support of our mission and to support the local community. Future academic year schedules beginning with AY 2011-12 are currently being

developed. When the schedule is finalized and approved, it will be promptly promulgated for your planning and scheduling convenience.

The Naval Academy faculty and staff looks forward to hosting our extended family during these exciting Commissioning Week events and we hope you continue to enjoy good health and a positive start to the coming spring season!

NAVY BLUE & GOLD FOREVER!

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

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