

Greeting Classmates,

I'm writing today to summarize today's Council of Class Presidents (COCP) meeting. It was held on-line for the first time ever. And if you can imagine what it might like to have ~80 people on a VTC with Presidents 70-80-90 years old...it was probably worse. But also pretty comical at the same time. We had briefs from various people to include the Commandant of Midshipman.

### **1. Status during COVID**

- USNA opted to allow Midn to reside elsewhere. That was in some part due to the 2 x suicides of Firsties at USAF Academy. They were in some part attributed to their very strict isolation policies (they have since been relaxed).
- Most events are postponed or cancelled. Meetings, Commissioning Week, Dedications, Ceremonies, All Academy Challenge, etc...
- They have NOT determined how I-Day or plebe summer will be run yet. They are evaluating numerous options.
- Midn are continuing their education via on-line methods. They are also doing virtual clubs and physical fitness challenges.
- They gave restrictees the option to stay at USNA to work off their time or postpone their time and stay somewhere else. There are about 40-50 Midn currently in Bancroft Hall. A handful of Midn have been ordered to return to USNA due to liberty incidents. The group in Bancroft is basically the work detail to keep basic functions and maintenance going.
- They have stepped up rodent / pest control while Bancroft and King Hall are virtually empty.
- Many have asked why USNA is doing things differently than USMA and USAF Academies for graduation. The Dant said "each Academy has their own set of facts, assumptions, and variables" and therefore they may or may not follow suit with other Service Academies.
- They have NOT decided exactly how the virtual graduation will be held on 22 May. They are capturing lessons learned from USAF graduation.
- For now, the Navy / ND game is still on for Ireland but they are evaluating options.
- They are still trying to figure out next year's plebe appointments with potential candidates that have not taken the ACT / SAT.
- The Class of 2020

\* Of course everyone wants to “help” the Class of 2020 with their graduation. Based on USAFA graduation, they ask that classes not get out in front of USNA activities. Apparently, there was a lot of confusion and stepping on each other. As a class we do not have anything planned.

\* They are also asking for any digital media (videos, pictures, memes, etc...). If you want to tag any, use #usna2020

\* Ultimately, the message from the Dant regarding graduation was to the effect of “it sucks but we are in the war fighting business and we are going to miss a lot of things in our career. Get used to it.”

\* Orders to their first duty stations start getting cut next week.

## **2. New Alumni Center**

- The Mail Center and HAZMIN building / move has begun. This is a predecessor to the new Center construction.

- ~\$22M building. ECD July 2022

- Will have 2 event decks and can host a 240-person event.

They are still negotiating with Annapolis in parking and gate entryways.

## **3. Service Academy Career Conference (SACC)**

- They just hosted the first of the series online (Jacksonville) and was a success

- Washington DC SACC is still planned June 11-12

- San Diego SACC is planned August 20-21

- Dallas SACC is planned October 29-30

## **4. Chapel Dome**

- Most of the copper from the dome has been removed. They have started making items for sale through a contracted company.

- <https://usnachapeldome.com/>

- They will continue making items until the copper is gone.

- We could do a group-buy of custom '96 copper challenge coins with a price point \$120-125 per coin. If anyone thinks they can get a group buy together and would like to run that, let me know.

### **5. New Alumni-Owned Businesses Page**

- If you would like to register your alumni-owned business, you can go to their new page located here <https://www.usna.com/alumni-businesses>

### **6. 25 Year Reunion**

- Don't forgot to mark your calendars for our 25 Year Reunion 1-3 Oct 2021. Expect everything to go "live" (Westin room blocks, registration, etc...) ~ Feb 2021.

### **7. Class Gift**

- Although times might be tough right now, don't forget that you can still donate to the Class Gift. If you are on a monthly auto-donation, you can always increase your value just a little...maybe an extra \$5/month.

### **8. Football Season**

- As of now, it is still planned. Let me know if you have season tickets and want your parking spot at our tailgate.

- If you'd like to help out with the operating costs, feel free to contact Nikki Battaglia. We also accept paypal at usna1996tailgater@gmail.

- As a reminder, the tailgate is a completely separate account and self-funded through donations and we use no class funds to pay for anything.

With that, I'm signing off. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and I'll do my best to find an answer.

***Nagel Sullivan***

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