

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland
The Commandant of Midshipmen

30 October 1962

MEMORANDUM to the Class of 1963:

The unlimited late lights policy for the First Class, which went into effect on Monday night, 19 October, is intended to be kept in effect for a trial period to see whether it actually works to the benefit and advantage of the Class of 1963. The purpose of the authorization is to provide you, individually, with an opportunity to determine for yourselves those nights on which you require more study effort in preparation for the following day's assignments than is normally the case. It is assumed that you will exercise proper judgment in selecting those nights on which you require the extra time, and will not utilize the authorization at those times when it is not required, because there is no intention of relaxing the normal daytime routine, including reveille, as a consequence of your having additional study time available in the evening.

The authorization for discretionary lights is considered not to be a rate or privilege, rather it is a means of providing more time when needed for study to meet the demands of academics and of additional responsibilities which accrue to First Classmen.

To be successful in The Fleet, the young naval officer must budget and use his time wisely. There are watches to be stood and inspections to be made, as well as divisional training and administrative duties to be accomplished. The junior naval officer has to meet his working day requirements whether he spent the preceding night standing a mid-watch or visiting the nearest liberty port. If you, as prospective junior officers, learn to exercise good judgment in balancing your needs for remaining up to get your lessons prepared versus your needs for sleeping to restore the capacities of your minds and bodies, you will find that you are already prepared to exercise the same good judgment as a junior officer. I cannot overemphasize that the strenuous routine at the Naval Academy requires an individual to maintain a good balance between his sleep and his physical and mental activities.

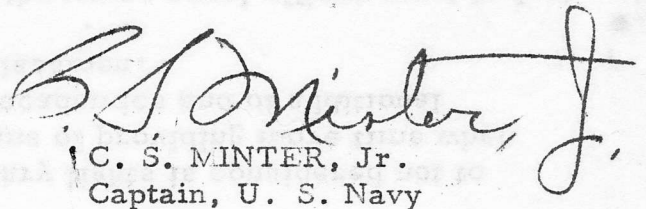
The granting of unlimited late lights is an opportunity for you to use the time to its best advantage. It is not a license for sleeping in class, for turning-in during daytime study periods, or for relaxing reveille requirements. The lowering of the military standards of appearance of midshipmen or of rooms will not be acceptable.

The fact that the First Class have indicated a need for additional study time should serve as adequate proof that all classes are hard-pushed

(over)

to satisfy their academic requirements within the time allotted and, obviously, any waste of time for any class cannot be tolerated. In this connection I request the Class of '63 to once again review the procedures relating to Plebe Indoctrination to make certain that Plebe time is not being wasted by abuses in any area -- and specifically in the area of professional questions. I have previously indicated to you my belief that this area is one that is most in need of closer supervision and scrutiny by the First Class to insure that no Plebes are being required to spend inordinate amounts of time in finding the answers to either (a) unreasonable numbers of questions at one time or, (b) answers to questions involving extensive Library research. In either case, it is apparent that the Plebe concerned may have no option other than to sacrifice study time to satisfy unreasonable requirements. For reasons previously discussed, this is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

I have been impressed with the sound, mature approach '63 has thus far exhibited in meeting its Brigade responsibilities. I have every confidence that you will demonstrate comparable maturity and judgment in dealing with the items I have covered in this memo.


C. S. MINTER, Jr.
Captain, U. S. Navy

NOTE: A copy of this memorandum will be placed within the binder containing the U. S. Naval Academy Regulations.

DIST:

One to each Midn. 1/c Room
Batt. Officers 1-2-3-4-5-6
Co. Officers 1-24

16 OCTOBER 1963