

Gang

I know that you all (*or most of you*) are scheduled to move to different Companies at the beginning of your 2/c Academic Year. I also know that many of you are not happy with the decision. You've all endured challenges over the last two years that for the most part could not have been imagined. And, you've excelled and deserve our admiration. You've all become very close and will always retain that closeness from the unique experience(s) that you've share together. But that closeness (*writ large*) comes with challenges (*pathologies*) as a derivative of that closeness that may not be in the best interest of the Service and / or Institution.

My personal initial reaction of the decision to "shotgun" was somewhat similar to most of yours because of the unique experience you've had over the last two years. However, after further thought I reached out to discuss this situation with two former senior leaders at the USAFA and USMA that I trust and have trusted for years. I then engaged sources at USNA. It is my understanding that the outgoing Commandant, incoming Commandant and Superintendent discussed the decision (*I suspect ad nauseam*) and agreed that it was in the best interest of the Service and Institution as well as the Brigade to "shotgun" the Class of 2023 to new companies.

And, where I suspect there were a myriad of considerations, there were core events and pathologies that lead to this decision (*not all 2023 issues*); increased alcohol in Bancroft Hall infractions (*a dismissal in my day*), the Physics cheating scandal, and other events that were in large part due to the covid pandemic and lack of the proper interaction / leadership and self policing within the Brigade; by extension — bad habits and bad cliques. Your 1/c (*Class of 2022*) have apparently been placed on notice to get the Brigade in shape as 1/c. Each of you need to step up and do your part, assuming leadership roles as 2/c in your new Company by following the lead of your 1/c.

Anecdotally, I think you should ALL feel very good about the example of your USNA leadership in arriving at this decision. I certainly can't speak for them, but suspect they (*too*) had similar "personal" feelings for the challenges you've experienced over the last two years and the relationships built during those tough times. But in the end, they all placed the Service and the Institution first;

consistent with the leadership / loyalty pyramid that you have been exposed to in your classes.

As you all move to your new Companies, I look forward to remaining in touch with each of you as we have for the last two years and now, perhaps, more often in person. This summer is a pivotal time for you. You will have diverse exposure to leadership, service selection options, occupational specialties and opportunities to discuss them with a wide range of professionals that you will come in contact with — don't waste those opportunities. Your service and occupational specialty choices are not far away. Remember that 9th Company Members from the Class of 1973 (*ALITC*) have a wide range of service (*Navy and Marines*) and occupational speciality experiences for you to take advantage of. I will continue to send you the Leadership Notes every Monday and will keep "our" website current as a source of information for you.

<http://www.lhenterprises.com/9thCompanyWebSite/>

When you have time, shoot me a note and let me know what Company you'll be moving to and remember, you're a 2/c now — "Be A Leader"

Cheers,

Leif '73