

President's Update: Message From CNO and Link to (third) Virtual Town Hall, Tuesday 1400

Monday, March 23, 2020

Team NPS,

The order from Navy Leadership in the fight against Coronavirus is: "All Ahead Flank!"

Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mike Gilday spoke to the Fleet in a recent video about how we must rise together to meet this challenge: as a Navy, and as leaders. Navy efforts include mobilizing our two 1000 bed hospital ships, the USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort to relieve pressure on civilian health providers. Additionally, nation-wide all Naval Forces have enacted policies designed to combat the spread of the virus.

Admiral Gilday said, *"Our focus right now is threefold: We must protect our people, and we must maintain mission readiness. And finally, we have to support the whole-of-government effort."*

I encourage you watch his address:

<https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2020/03/19/cnos-message-to-the-fleet-on-coronavirus/>

NPS and other Naval installations across our country are engaged in the Coronavirus threat. **We all can and must do our part.**

NPS plays a vital role providing the advanced education necessary for our officers to be effective in their next assignments – be that in harm's way deployed at sea or ashore, in units preparing to deploy or here now in our homeland called upon to support this crisis. Our work of providing graduate-level education remains a vital obligation to support the global and urgent national security missions our students are preparing for, and must execute.

The additional policies we have implemented at NPS are in compliance with response measures directed from Northern Command (NORTHCOM FRAGO 121.039 to OPORD 01-17) on 21 March to execute Phase III - Respond. Steps we have taken are designed to ensure the force protection of our students, families, the safety of our workforce and to preserve public health in our community. We are unified with the Defense Department, as a Naval service and with local leaders in our fight to stop the spread of the Coronavirus in our neighborhoods and throughout the nation.

Like many others commands, we have moved as much work as we can off base. NPS has shifted to full distance learning format and mandated telework. **I must stress**, that unless granted exception from the Chief of Staff, Captain Old or Provost Lerman or Dean Dell to work on campus in support of distance learning, conducting essential functions or classified requirements for ongoing naval and national security reasons, I expect **strict adherence** to this policy.

This is not easy. Admiral Gilday reminds us that in difficult times, we all need to be mindful of each other, supportive as leaders and shipmates always. Recall what I stated in a previous President's message: It was a former NPS President, and later an extraordinary and rare five-star Admiral and CNO, Admiral Ernest J. King, who stated: *"Difficulties' is the name given to things which it is our business to overcome."*

You are doing that well. We must continue – reach out, lean forward and lead by example. Social distancing does not mean distance from who we are, what we must do and how we will exemplify resilience, persistence, resourcefulness and teamwork.

Reach out and seek help if and as you need support. Talk with your supervisor and ask for assistance. We have services to help you and our NPS families:

At NPS:

<https://nps.edu/services>

At Naval Support Activity Monterey:

<https://nps.edu/web/nsam>

We are in this Coronavirus fight together and I want ALL of us to pull through – **as Team NPS**.

I am here with you. If you are not getting what you need, or think something deserves my attention please let me know. Email or call.

Keep learning, leaning-in and leading – together! Your hard work, dedication and care for each other are exemplary.

Reminder: our next (third) Virtual Town Hall will be Tuesday, 24 March at 1400. To enable further ease of access for you and your families, the viewing link will be on the public website: <https://www.nps.edu/watchlive>

If you want to view the first last Virtual Town Hall you can do so here:

<https://wiki.nps.edu/display/INVIDEO/Coronavirus+Virtual+Town+Hall+with+President+Ann+E.+Rondeau%2C+March+18%2C+2020>

With great respect,

Ann E. Rondeau, Ed.D.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
President, Naval Postgraduate School

Quick Links:

US Navy COVID updates: <https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2020/03/15/u-s-navy-covid-19-updates/>

NPS updates: <https://nps.edu/web/guest/covid19>

Get FAQ answers here: <https://nps.edu/web/guest/covid19-faqs>

Submit your questions here: <https://wiki.nps.edu/x/MLTuRQ>

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