

Commandant's Guidance for Cadets

March 24, 2020

General Situation: As we enter the “danger zone” of possible exponential growth of the Covid-19 virus cases in Alabama, Marion and Perry County still do not have any reported cases. MMI is on minimum manning with most of the faculty and staff working from home. Campus is closed per order of Governor Ivey.

Focus Areas for MMI:

- ***On-line education.*** Faculty and staff are focused on supporting you through this period to ensure you not only finish the semester, but finish strong. If you focus on your studies and exercise a bit of self-discipline, you will do fine and continue on with your plans. Remember, “Finish what you start!”
- ***Campus clearance.*** Our secondary mission is to plan for and execute an efficient and safe plan for you to return to campus and clear your rooms, etc. Two criteria drive this plan, 1) to safeguard the health of you and all our staff – remember we are not young like you! 2) to ensure that you have the opportunity to take care of all your requirements required by specific programs (such as ECP).
- ***Preparing for Fall.*** Lastly, we are looking at our Fall Semester, and it is looking good! We are taking advantage of an empty campus to get ahead of our maintenance and renovation projects, such as putting new windows into Rane Hall and extending the running trail. We are also revamping our ITC program and working out a plan to conduct leadership boards for all of you who want to compete for a position. We are looking at taking in a large C1 class in the Fall, so plenty of leadership opportunities will be available. The future is bright!
- ***Graduation, convocation and commissioning and just staying involved.*** The Dean and staff are looking at possible options to commemorate your achievements this year. Additionally, we are continuing with Year Book work (a slightly different format), class coin design and other ways to stay in touch and involved with your fellow cadets. Keep your eye on our social media pages for more details and the opportunity to participate.

Requests:

- ***Stay away from campus!*** The next 2-3 weeks will be critical in the effort to “flatten the curve” of new cases of the virus. Marion and Perry County are particularly vulnerable due to our demographics. Unfortunately, many of you spent Spring Break in places and circumstances that exposed you to the virus – you may be a carrier and not even know it. **Therefore, we ask that you do not come to campus until your designated time.** This will allow us to manage the numbers and control,

to the greatest extent possible, risk factors. **Until then, if you come to campus you will be asked to leave. Barracks are closed and locked.** Not to worry, we still love you, but we have to act according to the Governor's direction and in the best interest of everyone. If there is an emergency situation, you may send your request through your TAC for consideration. Unfortunately, approvals will be rare.

- ***Practice Social Distancing and Self Isolation!*** This will help to limit exposure to yourself, your family, friends and those around you. Additionally, this will help mitigate risk factors for you, your fellow cadets and faculty and staff when you return to clear your rooms etc.
- ***ECP and SAP Cadets and DODMERB.*** Mrs. Sumlin is still available to assist you in your DODMERB processes. Please call or email her directly (remesumlin@marionmilitary.edu) 205-441-3278. Ensure you leave your name and good contact information should you text or leave a voice mail.
- ***Keep tuned to new developments.*** This is an evolving situation, and so our plans are evolving as well. Expect some changes, remain flexible and we will get through this quickly!