



September 21, 2011

Dear Parents,

This letter is in response to the questions that were brought forth during Friday night's meeting (Sept, 16, 2011) after our guest speakers had departed. On Sunday I had the pleasure of speaking with RADM Carpenter while attending Maritime's Men's Soccer game.

First off RADM Carpenter was very pleased with the turnout for the Parent's Association meeting. Having a daughter in college now she understands the importance of the parent's involvement with the school. After explaining the situation she did offer her sincere apologies for the situation during the cadets move in. She indicated that the conditions were not as they should have been and assured me that it will be corrected in the future. RADM Carpenter stated that there were numerous factors involved. The former Housing Director tendered his resignation just before move in. The Asst. Housing Director had to scramble to get things in order. There has been ongoing construction and workers have been in and out of the buildings doing work. Just before school opened a contractor doing work in the dorms was terminated. Hurricane Irene added to the situation and caused some flooding issues and repairs which required the undivided attention of school personnel to correct prior to school opening. She stated that steps were being made to streamline the check in process and ensure that the unsatisfactory conditions of the dorms would be a thing of the past.

Concerns of the ongoing conditions of the dorms were addressed today and we are waiting for a response. Admiral Carpenter stated it is also incumbent upon each student to clean up after him/herself and not be left up to the custodial staff. The Admiral is doing walk-throughs of the dorms and buildings.

On Tuesday (Sept. 20) I spoke with Henry Raposeiro of Chartwell's and he was able to explain the situation in regards to the operating hours and availability of meals for the students. He stated that the hours of the Mess Deck are as follows:

Breakfast	6:30 am – 8:30 am
Lunch	11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Dinner	5:00 pm – 8:45 pm Monday to Thursday
	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Friday / 6:00 pm on Saturday / 7:45 pm on Sunday

The TIV is open all day long. Closing hours at the TIV during the week is at 11:00 pm. He stated that their meal card can be swiped at the TIV until 8:00 pm. After that time they have to use their flex dollars or cash. During the hours of 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm the lines at the TIV are out the door as most

of the students would rather eat the food there as opposed to the Mess Deck. The volume is far more than they can handle at the TIV. Also keep in mind that the students have to wear their uniform when on the Mess Deck. They are not required to do so at the TIV.

He stated that he did switch around some of the meal choices and the water was removed due to a storage issue that has been corrected. As of this Friday the water will be available to be purchased with their meal plan. The MUGS have to have breakfast at 6:30 prior to formation. They are not allowed on the Mess Deck after formation.

He added that they accommodated the students by extending hours to 8:45 pm. Normally they have no one at the mess deck after 8:15 pm. He added that it is not possible to keep the Mess Deck open any later due to cost and staffing and the fact that the students just don't use it. At the request of coaches there are occasions where box meals and later hours can be arranged. This is usually the football team that eats late when they travel. Most of the other teams have the opportunity to eat before or after their game. If they're traveling teams usually eat on the road. Henry requests that if the students have a situation to contact him directly.

Hope this answers some of your questions. Please bear in mind that there is no easy solution to the situation but one that our students can adapt to until another can be obtained.

Bob Nugent
President, SMPA
9/21/11