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PERSONAL MEMORANDUM FOR VICE ADMIRAL DONALD B. BEARY

The enclosed fundamental principles were compiled after lengthy consideration by large numbers of officers. The list consists of those principles which were sanctioned by all officers and it is believed that the expressed principles correctly represent the philosophy of the Navy and Marine Corps and can be actively supported by the entire Naval Service. Other important principles were not included either because there was not universal indorsement of them or because they were of a temporary nature.

The list is not classified but it is undesirable that it be released to the press as a whole although individual items or articles and speeches based on these principles can be released.

It is suggested that you review these principles and disseminate them to your command.

Louis Denfeld
LOUIS DENFFELD

Attachment.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

6929-8828
31/May/49r

1. The Naval Establishment is and always has been based on the constitutional principle of civilian control. The Navy feels that the very existence of our system of government and of the liberties of our citizens depend on a continuance of such control.

2. The Navy is dedicated to preserving the security of the United States and is concerned with those means which the Navy can contribute to that security. The security of the United States is the basis for all decisions and actions of the naval service.

3. Wars are fought for reasons of national policy. The war policy must be consonant with the peace policy. The manner of achieving victory must not jeopardize the peace to follow.

4. The naval service accepts and supports the statutory concepts upon which the National Military Establishment is based. It will do all in its power to give them full force and effect.

5. The naval service actively seeks to improve the framework of national security organization and believes that best results will come from an evolutionary process.

6. In order that the United States combatant forces

6929-8829
31/May/49r

can fight effectively and be supported in any part of the world it is the Navy's responsibility to gain and maintain control of the seas.

7. The naval service supports without reservation an effective Army and Air Force fully realizing that no one force or no one weapon by itself can assure the security of the United States.

8. The Navy will always be ready to support, aid, and supplement the other services in the performance of their duties. The Navy welcomes the assistance of other services in the performance of naval tasks.

9. The economy of the United States has required, and will continue to require, our control of the necessary sea lines of communication. The fundamental strategy of the United States is essentially the strategy of a maritime power which occupies an island position.

10. Major war operations will require our establishment of advance overseas bases, defense of those bases, and logistic support for them and operations based upon them.

11. Any fighting force must destroy enemy forces and their operating bases which threaten accomplishment of its mission.

12. The Navy believes that victory in war will require the decisive defeat of the hostile armed forces.

13. Experience has shown that a Navy can exercise sea power effectively only as an integrated force with its components -- submarine, air, service, Fleet Marine Force, amphibious forces, and all others, developed and working together as a balanced naval force with common understanding and towards a common end. There are no separate entities in an effective Navy. Each component is so closely entwined with other components and works so closely with others that, like the vital parts of a living body, they are inseparable. For its greatest effectiveness the naval service must have the full understanding and active support of both the Army and the Air Force.

14. The Navy is the only force which can maintain control of the seas; to do so its fleets must be capable of conducting naval campaigns and operations, including amphibious operations, against air, surface, and submarine opposition.

15. The strength of the Navy will be measured in the future, as it has been in the past, by the degree of precision striking power which it can develop through technical excellence, integrated and comprehensive training achieved under competent, courageous, and understanding leadership.

16. The naval service believes that the creation of a supreme general staff and a single supreme military commander would be militarily unsound; would certainly lead

6929-8828

31/May/49r

to eventual distortion of the organization of the armed forces, and might subvert civilian control of the military.

17. The Navy believes that each service must strive to achieve a peak of performance. Uniform standards should only be established at the level of the most efficient service. Uniformity of standards is not an end to be sought for its own sake.

18. The naval service believes that each service should be so constituted as to possess the personnel, tools, and weapons necessary to discharge its full responsibilities.