

FM SECNAV WASHINGTON DC
TO ALNAV

BT

ALNAV 013/07

UNCLAS

SUBJ/EXPECTATION OF ETHICAL CONDUCT//

MSGID/GENADMIN/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC/-/FEB//

RMKS/1. AS WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR, NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR CONDUCT ON A DAILY BASIS. AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GATES RECENTLY REMINDED US, WE MUST MAINTAIN AND ENFORCE ETHICAL STANDARDS. I, ALONG WITH THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, AM COMMITTED TO FOSTERING AND MAINTAINING A STRONG ETHICAL CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY. I BELIEVE THAT TODAY S NAVY AND MARINE CORPS IS MADE UP OF MEN AND WOMEN, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, WHO SHARE THIS COMMITMENT. NO ORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, ESPECIALLY ONE AS LARGE AND GEOGRAPHICALLY WIDESPREAD AS OURS, MAINTAINS EXCELLENCE IN ETHICS WITHOUT CONSTANT VIGILANCE, GOOD TRAINING AND EDUCATION, AND A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE TOUGH CALL BECAUSE IT S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. THIS IS WHY THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, THE COMMANDANT, AND I VIEW REINFORCING ETHICS AND EXEMPLARY CONDUCT AS ONE OF OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

2. THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS HAVE A STRONG TRADITION THAT REQUIRES ALL OF US TO CONDUCT OURSELVES IN THE HIGHEST ETHICAL MANNER, TO BE HONEST AND TRUTHFUL IN OUR DEALINGS WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, AND TO ACT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND THE NATION, WITHOUT REGARD TO PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES.

3. THERE ARE RULES AND STANDARDS TO HELP GUIDE US WHEN WE ENCOUNTER ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR OFFICIAL DUTIES. THESE STANDARDS INCLUDE FOURTEEN BEDROCK PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT OUTLINED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12674, AS WELL AS SPECIFIC RULES FOR A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS ACCEPTING GIFTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, IMPARTIALITY IN PERFORMING OUR DUTIES, AND USE OF OUR OFFICIAL POSITIONS. KEEP IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING IS NOT SOLELY A FUNCTION OF WHETHER A LAW OR REGULATION PERMITS US TO DO SOMETHING. WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER THE ACTION SETS THE RIGHT EXAMPLE AND IS THE HONORABLE THING TO DO. ARE WE PROMOTING FAIRNESS, TRUST, AND PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY?

4. I ASK ALL OF YOU TO BE CONSTANTLY MINDFUL OF THESE OBLIGATIONS. IF IT DOESN T SEEM RIGHT, IT PROBABLY ISN T. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER SOMETHING IS APPROPRIATE, ASK. SUPERVISORS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, ETHICS COUNSELORS, AND OTHERS IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HELP YOU FIND THE ANSWER.

5. I ALSO ASK ALL COMMANDERS AND SUPERVISORS TO REINFORCE THESE EXPECTATIONS WHETHER IT IS IN THE PLAN OF THE DAY, AN ALL HANDS MEETING, A COMMAND WEBSITE, OR SMALL GROUP SETTING BY REMINDING YOUR PEOPLE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS THE BENEFITS WE ALL ENJOY FROM A STRONG ETHICAL CULTURE.

6. WE OWE THIS TO OURSELVES, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO THE NATION WE SERVE AND DEFEND.

7. RELEASED BY THE HONORABLE DONALD C. WINTER, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.//

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