

AL AUX 02-17 - THE COAST GUARD CULTURE OF RESPECT

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From: Zukunft, Paul F ADM
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:19 PM
Subject: Culture of Respect

To the men and women of our Coast Guard,

Recent reports of degrading social media posts and file sharing by some members of the armed services are troubling to us all. Our Duty to People requires Coast Guard men and women to adhere to the highest standard of personal and professional conduct on and off duty. As stewards of public trust, our collective actions must always uphold our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

I expect everyone in our service - active duty, reserve, civilian, and Auxiliary - to build and maintain a culture of respect. This starts with living our Core Values in word and deed and having the courage to call out any behavior that is unacceptable in our Coast Guard. If you witness disrespect to a shipmate - in person or online - don't condone or join in it. Our duty to people demands that we act when we see our shipmates demeaned. Don't be a bystander. We are a service of "by-doers" with a storied reputation for seizing on-scene initiative. This very same character trait that has become instinctive applies whether rescuing a mariner in distress or seizing the on-scene initiative when a shipmate has been demeaned and betrayed. We do the right thing. We advance a culture of respect. We report behavior that targets a shipmate, including bullying, hazing or harassment. Violations of our trust in one another have no place in our service.

I am proud of you - the world's best Coast Guard - and your commitment to upholding our service's proud 226 year history of service before self.

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
Commandant