



RHUMB LINES

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Navy Ethos...the Fundamental Principles and Values We Share

"We are the United States Navy, our Nation's sea power – ready guardians of peace, victorious in war. We are professional Sailors and Civilians – a diverse and agile force exemplifying the highest standards of service to our Nation, at home and abroad, at sea and ashore. Integrity is the foundation of our conduct; respect for others is fundamental to our character; decisive leadership is crucial to our success. We are a team, disciplined and well-prepared, committed to mission accomplishment. We do not waver in our dedication and accountability to our Shipmates and families. We are patriots, forged by the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. In times of war and peace, our actions reflect our proud heritage and tradition. We defend our Nation and prevail in the face of adversity with strength, determination, and dignity. We are the United States Navy."

– United States Navy Ethos

The Navy Ethos was developed to reflect the values integral to mission accomplishment for active and reserve Sailors and Navy civilians, regardless of assigned unit, command or community. After gathering input from across the Navy for the past several months, the Chief of Naval Operations approved the Navy Ethos. The final product is the result of comments from thousands of active and reserve Sailors and Navy civilians from around the world on the fundamental principles and values the Navy employs daily to win wars and build and maintain security and stability. Navy Ethos products can be found at www.navy.mil.

Ethos Development

- [CNO Guidance 2007-2008](#) directed to "instill in our military and civilian force a focus on mission and individual readiness that is underpinned by a warrior ethos." At the Navy Flag Officer and Senior Executive Service (NFOSES) conference in December 2007 the warrior ethos evolved to the Navy Ethos.
- In May 2008, [NAVADMIN 123/08](#) encouraged Sailors and Navy civilians to participate in developing the Navy Ethos to ensure the statement "communicated and emphasized the fundamental principles and values we would expect to be shared by all who serve."

What is Ethos?

- Ethos identifies the distinguishing character, culture, or beliefs of a group or institution.
- The Navy Ethos is a statement of principles that distinguishes the military and civilian personnel who serve on the Navy team.

Why a Navy Ethos?

- The Navy Ethos is designed to communicate a set of beliefs appropriate and important to the more than 400,000 military and 180,000 civilian personnel who share a common bond of service in the Navy, regardless of background, personal experience, or position.
- This ethos captures the heroic spirit seen throughout the Navy's proud heritage from heroes like Capt. John Paul Jones, Adm. David Farragut, Ship's Cook Third Class Doris "Dorie" Miller, and Boatswain's Mate First Class James Elliot Williams, while simultaneously reflecting the elite fighting organization the Navy is today.

Key Messages

- Navy Ethos is our service's overarching set of beliefs, embracing Navy core values and complementing the Sailor's Creed, community-specific creeds and the civilian oath of office.
- Principles that are fundamental to all cultures of our total workforce are reflected in the Navy Ethos.
- The Navy Ethos is the result of input from thousands of active and reserve Sailors and Navy civilians around the world on our fundamental principles and values.

Facts & Figures

- Input was solicited from the Ethos website and Navy-wide survey with 7,000 respondents representative of overall Navy demographics.
- More than 75% agreed with the draft Ethos tenets and more than 50% offered specific comments.
- 22 town hall/focus group sessions in 7 locations with approximately 460 Sailors and civilians held discussions on the what and why of the Navy Ethos provided a good source of critical comments.