

FIGHTING DIRECTIONS

DESRON 23 IS A COMBAT FOCUSED, WARFIGHTING ORIENTED COMMAND PREPARED TO FIGHT AND WIN AMERICA'S WARS

A MARITIME NATION AT WAR. We are a maritime nation at war - defending our freedom, ensuring our economic viability, and protecting our very way of life. Over 313 million citizens of the United States (and for that matter, most of the world) are made and kept free by less than one percent of the population of this great nation--Patriots like you who comprise the 2.8 million active duty and reserve military personnel in the world's most powerful combat force.

AMERICA'S RELIABILITY ON THE NAVY. 90 percent by volume, and 85 percent by value, of all the worlds trade is moved by ship. Our Founding Fathers realized our nation's vital link to maritime trade and delineated in the Constitution that while the Congress has limited authority to "raise and support armies" they have full authority to "provide and maintain a navy". It is imperative that each of our ships be prepared to keep the global commons open for world trade - a trade that is vital to our own national security and economic survival. To those who question whether we are at war, they need only ask the mothers, fathers, daughters and sons of the 4,486 Americans who lost their lives liberating Iraq or the 1,920 who lost their lives as we methodically rid Afghanistan of the Taliban scourge. As a testament to these great Americans who made the supreme sacrifice, nothing but the ultimate living personification of American ideals is acceptable from us. That word, 'us', implies more than one, a unit, a team. Without a firm belief in the foundation of teamwork we will not succeed in our efforts. Anything short of complete victory is unacceptable. Combat is the ultimate means of executing our mandate and upholding our oaths. We will support the Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eleven (CCSG11), his Warfare Commanders, our fellow armed services, and our friends and allies, as directed by U.S. national policy.

RANGE OF OPERATIONS. Our range of operations will vary from short and specific operations such as counter narcotics, MIO, I&W, and escort to long term sustained maritime combat operations (MCO). Readiness, in all aspects, must always be geared towards timely, well planned, and violently executed combat operations. This includes constant personnel readiness. Ensure your ships are manned properly - if they are not, ask for help; send your people to school as required; send them to the dentist and medical on time; support them and their families personally; never forget that people - and not robots - work for you.

BALANCING OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING. Prepare your ships; balance operations, maintenance, and training to ensure when we are called upon, we are ready. We will follow the guidance of my predecessor - Admiral Burke who said "if it helps kill the enemy - it's important". The quality of your systems directly affects your combat efficiency. Train your teams; study the pubs, know the doctrine; know your enemies capabilities and doctrine; exercise the full range of operations. Proficiency is not a goal; it is a necessity. Readiness is not a singular moment in our FRTP some point before our deployment. It is a constant process that requires rigor every day. Whether in port or at sea you need to ask "what more can I do to increase our readiness?" The idea that we will be ready tomorrow is too late because the enemy gets a vote. So we will be ready today. This standard must be fully understood from the Commanding Officer down to the brand new Seaman that checked on board 30 seconds ago.

PRIORITIES AT SEA. Our priorities at sea are:

- 1. Operate:** We will conduct proficient combat operations while we defend the high value unit and decisively defeat the enemy.
- 2. Navigate:** We will be where you need to be, when we need to be there.
- 3. Communicate:** Communicate up, down and across the chain of command. Always tell the truth; if a SITREP is required per instruction, send it; if a fail to sail is required per instruction, send it; etc. We will

report to senior leadership our accurate status so they can make competent decisions based on solid information.

TO THOSE WHO WISH US HARM. To the Taliban, Abu Sayaf, Al Qaeda, and any state or non-state actor who wishes to do harm to this nation, be on notice...The band of brothers is prepared to come soon to a theater near you. So this may be a good time to reconsider your intentions, because ours are crystal clear.

INTENTIONS. MY INTENTIONS ARE TO LEAD YOU INTO HARM'S WAY - NOT BECAUSE I AM LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, BUT BECAUSE THIS BAND OF BROTHERS IS EXPECTED TO KEEP OUR NATION FREE. The American taxpayers have spent Billions of dollars of our collective treasure to ensure DESRON 23 has the finest ships ever put to sea. Additionally, they have provided our nation's best resource to man these combatants -over 2,000 of America's sons and daughters.

To summarize, **YOU MUST ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY AND WIN AMERICA'S WARS, SO BE READY TO FIGHT!**

COMMODORE
DESRON 23