

USCGC SPENCER COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

By CDR Peter Niles, Commanding Officer

Safety: Life at sea is the most dangerous, demanding, and unforgiving environment known to man. A split second of inattention to detail can be disastrous to you or your shipmate. All the safety regulations will do you no good if you choose to ignore them. Take the necessary precautions to minimize risk. This is a time on SPENCER in which the chain of command considerations are ignored. If you see, or even think you see an unsafe condition developing, you have the obligation to immediately sound off regardless of your rank or time aboard.

Harmony: The word harmony means balance and we must always find balance in what we do. Our challenge is balancing home and shipboard needs. Keep your supervisor informed of any family/work balance issues so we can try to find a proper solution. Know that family is a priority for me as well, and I will try to maintain the proper balance based on mission needs. Communication is a key to a harmonized ship, and most hard feelings occur due to misunderstandings more than from any other cause. Rumors start because sailors get one-third of the story and are quick to fill in the blanks themselves.

Integrity: Challenge yourself to be the best shipmate you can be. We write the next chapter of SPENCER's famed legacy on Coast Guard History. We will not tarnish our past; we will perform in the present, and be the legend of the future. Live by our core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty and let them guide you.

Practise professionalism: A mindset that should drive every aspect of your job. It's most visible appearance is in how you deal with other people. Professionals accept accountability for their actions; they are committed to the mission whatever it may be. Every person recognizes when they have been dealt with professionally; and you must hold yourself to that same high standard.

Mission: SPENCER has been temporarily entrusted to us so that we can carry out any mission to which assigned. Mission tasking may frustrate us because the tasking usually requires us to leave our homes and work for countless more hours. As public service professionals, we are expected to subdue our personal desires and devote ourselves to serving the public.

Abuse: SPENCER is a diverse crew, and a family. We will not accept any sexual assault or sexual abuse to our Coast Guard family. Everyone deserves a safe working environment and home life. We will protect all of our shipmates and family from predators. It is our job as service members to ensure their safety on or off duty. Be the shipmate your parents raised you to be.

Train and Maintain: We owe it to ourselves to be trained and qualified to the highest levels. Without training, we cannot perform our missions. I ask you to take time each watch to go over the "what if" situations and how you would respond. Secondly, I ask you to maintain the ships condition and appearance to the best of your ability. Material condition, preventive maintenance completion and cleanliness are focal points for me.

"Excellency, not adequacy": This is my personal motto that I strive to achieve and ask you to embrace. We do not want to just be adequate, we will strive to be excellent and set the example for others to follow.