

R 062108Z DEC 96 ZYB MIN
FM SECNAV WASHINGTON DC//SN//
TO ALNAV 080/96

SUBJ/DUI/DWI POLICY

RMKS/1. WHEN I DISCUSS DISCIPLINE AND READINESS WITH OUR COMMANDING OFFICERS AND SENIOR ENLISTED, THERE IS ONE COMMON THEME -- A STRIKING MAJORITY OF OUR DISCIPLINARY AND PERSONNEL READINESS PROBLEMS ARE RELATED TO ALCOHOL ABUSE. ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS FORMS OF THIS ABUSE IS DRUNK DRIVING, SOMETIMES CALLED DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OR DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED. DRUNK DRIVING IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE, ONE THAT CAN TAKE THE LIVES OF SHIPMATES, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND OTHER INNOCENT PERSONS. AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON NEARS, I WANT TO BE SURE THERE IS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT THE NAVAL SERVICE OF OUR POLICY REGARDING DRUNK DRIVING OFFENSES.

I CONSIDER ANY DRUNK DRIVING OFFENSE TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL FAILURE IN JUDGMENT, BEHAVIOR AND LEADERSHIP. SUCH A LACK OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GENERAL DISREGARD FOR THE SAFETY OF ONESELF AND THE PUBLIC IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF THE NAVAL SERVICE. WHEN A DRUNK DRIVING OFFENSE IS REPORTED, COMMANDING OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSIDER ALL OF THE RELEVANT FACTS, AND IF THE OFFENSE IS SUBSTANTIATED, TO RESOLVE THE MATTER APPROPRIATELY UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE (UCMJ). A DRUNK DRIVING OFFENSE, WHETHER DOCUMENTED THROUGH NONJUDICIAL PUNISHMENT, COURT-MARTIAL, OR CONVICTION BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES, RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO PERFORM SUCCESSFULLY IN MORE SENIOR POSITIONS.

WHEN ADJUDICATING A SUBSTANTIATED CASE OF DRUNK DRIVING, WHETHER UNDER THE UCMJ OR BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND REPORTING SENIORS SHALL DOCUMENT THAT OFFENSE IN THE SERVICE RECORD OF THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED BY SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING IT IN OFFICER FITNESS REPORTS, ENLISTED EVALUATIONS, APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD ENTRIES, AND OTHER REPORTS AS REQUIRED BY INSTRUCTION. AS SUCH, SECNAVINST 5300.29 "ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DRUNK DRIVING" IS BEING REVISED TO REFLECT THESE MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. THIS WILL ENABLE THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS TO CONSIDER THIS ASPECT OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERFORMANCE AND JUDGMENT WHEN ASSESSING FUTURE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT DRUNK DRIVERS ARE TAKING THE LIVES OF SAILORS, MARINES, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, AND INNOCENT CIVILIANS. EVERYONE IN THE NAVAL SERVICE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT THIS IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR CORE VALUES AND WILL HAVE SERIOUS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONSEQUENCES. THOSE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY, MUST SET A CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS EXAMPLE, NOT ONLY THROUGH PERSONAL BEHAVIOR, BUT IN HOW THEY RESPOND WHEN THEIR SUBORDINATES FAIL TO LIVE UP TO THE STANDARDS EXPECTED OF THEM.

PROTECTING EACH OTHER FROM HARM IS CENTRAL TO OUR TRADITIONS AND CORE VALUES OF HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT. DOING EVERYTHING

POSSIBLE TO PREVENT A DUI/DWI IS EVERYONE'S PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND IS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THOSE IDEALS. I EXPECT EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY TO LIVE UP TO THEM.

2. RELEASED BY HONORABLE JOHN H. DALTON, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.//BT