

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20350

SECNAVINST 1000.9  
Op-09BL  
4 October 1979

**SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1000.9**

**From:** Secretary of the Navy  
**To:** All Ships and Stations

**Subj:** Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States

**Ref:** (a) DODINST 1300.7 of 8 Jul 1964, Training and Education Measures Necessary to Support the Code of Conduct (NOTAL)  
(b) NAVREGS Art. 1122

**Encl:** (1) Executive Order 10631, 17 Aug 1955, "Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States," as amended by Executive Order 12017, 3 November 1977

**1. Purpose.** To disseminate enclosure (1) for the guidance of all Navy and Marine Corps military personnel.

**2. Cancellation.** Navy Department General Order No. 4, 18 March 1957.

**3. Action**

a. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps will provide for instruction in the Code of Conduct in conformance with the current edition of reference (a).

b. Officers in command of activities or units having Navy or Marine Corps members assigned shall comply with the provisions of reference (b) regarding the instruction of military personnel in the Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States, and the conspicuous posting of the Code of Conduct in places readily accessible to such personnel.

**R. JAMES WOOLSEY**  
Acting Secretary of the Navy

**Distribution:**  
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MARCORPS Codes H and I

**Chief of Naval Operations**  
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4 October 1979

## ARMED FORCES--CODE OF CONDUCT

No. 10631

August 20, 1955, 20 F.R. 6057

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF  
THE UNITED STATES

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, I hereby prescribe the Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States which is attached to this order and hereby made a part thereof.

Every member of the armed forces of the United States is expected to measure up to the standards embodied in this Code of Conduct while he is in combat or in captivity. To ensure achievement of these standards, each member of the armed forces liable to capture shall be provided with specific training and instruction designed to better equip him to counter and withstand all enemy efforts against him, and shall be fully instructed as to the behavior and obligations expected of him during combat or captivity.

The Secretary of Defense (and the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the Coast Guard except when it is serving as part of the Navy) shall take such action as is deemed necessary to implement this order and to disseminate and make the said Code known to all members of the armed forces of the United States.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 17, 1955.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES  
ARMED FORCES

## I

I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

## II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

## III

If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

## IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

## V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause. 1

## VI

I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

1097

1Amended by Executive Order 12017, November 3, 1977

Enclosure (1)