

VAW-117 COMMANDING OFFICER

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY



EXCELLENCE....*Everyday*

This is what makes the Wallbangers great: EXCELLENCE....*Everyday*

VAW-117 has a long history of greatness, of many deployments and detachments where we rose to the challenge and performed gallantly in service to our country. The Wallbangers have been recognized frequently for their achievements and have a reputation as the pinnacle of Naval Aviation. But the past does not guarantee continued success tomorrow. Tomorrow's success is based on what we do today.

Our MISSION is to deliver Command and Control and Airborne Early Warning any time, any place. When we are on the tip of the spear, we must be combat ready and lethal on day one. To do that we will work as a team to be efficient and effective in the delivery of time critical situational awareness and decisions necessary to support the warfare commander. We will not accept good enough, we will make today better than yesterday. This is an unforgiving profession, and anything short of excellence will lead to failure.

To make the Wallbangers more effective, we must all improve individually. Every day we will each endeavor to make ourselves better; to progress towards a new qualification, a warfare insignia, advance in rank, or the next ACTC level. Don't resign to just complete a task, but challenge yourself to do it better than the day before. Only if every Banger persistently strives for excellence will we ensure the combat readiness of this squadron and the CVW-7 Freedom Fighter team.

Bangers are so effective at our mission because we aren't just a command, but a family. That doesn't happen by mistake, but takes concerted effort by all members. If you see a fellow shipmate struggling, reach out and lend a hand. If you need help, ask for it. We must nurture and strengthen the bonds that tie us together, for only together will we truly achieve excellence.

My philosophy is not about listing *what* is important; but instead focuses on the *how*. The difference between good and great is in the how we accomplish our profession. The guiding principle is thus, strive to make Banger Nation better today than it was yesterday. Demand of yourself and your shipmates EXCELLENCE....*Everyday*.



A. H. GILBERT

VAW-117 COMMANDING OFFICER

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



EXCELLENCE....*Everyday*

We will afford everyone fair and equal treatment. We shall promote positive command morale and quality of life by cultivating an environment in which all personal can perform to their maximum ability, unimpeded by institutional or individual biases based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or religion. Discrimination is violation of Federal regulation and may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Discriminatory practices are illegal and they undermine morale and the ability to successfully complete our mission.

Instances of sexual harassment, hazing, racism, and fraternization degrade morale and impede success; I will not tolerate them.

Each of us is responsible for command climate. Every Wallbanger has a direct impact on the climate of our squadron and shall conduct themselves appropriately in accordance with our Navy ethos and Navy Core Values, and act to stop inappropriate behavior at the lowest level permitted. It is incumbent on us to inform others when they have crossed from “acceptable” behavior into “unacceptable” behavior. When we are unable to resolve it at a lower level, it is also incumbent on us to elevate issues or grievances through appropriate channels.

Turning a blind eye to behavior inconsistent with my policies and the Navy Core Values and is equivalent to accepting and condoning it.

If you believe that you are the victim of discrimination in any form, it is recommended you confront the person and state clearly that their actions are perceived by you to be discrimination. If this does not eliminate the problem, or if you feel uncomfortable challenging the offender directly, you should report the issue to the Command Managed Equal Opportunity Officer, the offender’s supervisor, or the Command Master Chief in a timely manner. You are ALWAYS welcome to speak with me personally if you feel the situation warrants. The command will thoroughly investigate each instance and those found in violation of this policy are subject to punitive measures under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.


A. H. GILBERT

VAW-117 COMMANDING OFFICER

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE



EXCELLENCE....*Everyday*

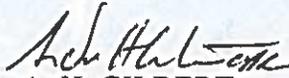
Alcohol and drug abuse by Sailors seriously damage their physical and mental health, jeopardizes their safety, the safety of others, and can lead to criminal prosecution and separation from Naval Service. Alcohol and drug abuse is detrimental to readiness and is contrary to our Navy Core Values and initiatives to promote personal excellence and healthy lifestyles.

Alcohol consumption is an individual decision and those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages must do so lawfully and **responsibly**. Those who choose not to consume alcoholic beverages shall be supported. Alcohol consumption is never an acceptable excuse for misconduct or poor judgment. It remains an individual choice as to whether or not to drink alcohol. The Navy's Policy on Alcohol Use is "Responsible Use." It is every Wallbanger's responsibility to define for themselves what "responsible use" means, should they choose to imbibe. Members who choose to drink shall do so in an appropriate place, at an appropriate time, and in appropriate quantity.

The minimum age to consume alcohol is 21 for all personnel. Underage drinking, contributing to underage drinking, drinking on a duty status, or operating a vehicle under the influence is unacceptable.

This command has a "zero tolerance" drug use policy. Members determined to be using, possessing, promoting, manufacturing or distributing drugs or drug abuse paraphernalia shall be disciplined as appropriate and processed for separation as required. Members diagnosed as drug dependent shall be offered treatment prior to separation.

Our goal is to promote an environment and squadron free from the effects of alcohol and drug abuse. Recognizing the Navy's investment in every Sailor, we shall help those who are diagnosed as alcohol abusers or alcohol dependent and assist to return them to full duty status upon successful completion of prescribed education, intervention, or treatment.


A. H. GILBERT