



## Command Philosophy Of Captain Frederick J. McDonald, Medical Corps, United States Navy

1. The purpose of this document is to outline for you my command philosophy. It is my sincerest belief the better you understand how I approach leadership and management, and my expectations, the more effective we will be as a **TEAM** in achieving any objectives set by higher echelon and/or ourselves.

2. The first step of understanding my command philosophy is to know who I am. I am a career officer in the U.S. Navy. I am a medical corps officer, a board certified family physician, a life-long learner, but I am defined by more than these alone:

- I am a husband, father, brother, and son;
- I am married to the love of my life and best friend;
- I have four wonderful children, who exceed my every expectation;
- I am human and have experienced happiness, sorrow, and disappointment;
- I love sports, reading, and spending time with those I love;
- I can be quiet, comical, studious, and am passionate about healthcare;
- I am an American, embrace diversity, and believe we have the power to be successful, happy, and fulfilled – we can choose the path we take!

3. My command philosophy is simply the following:

### **“Patients first, Shipmates always!”**

4. **“Patients first”**:

- We exist as a unit because of **Patients**;
- We will promote **Readiness, Quality Care, and Customer Satisfaction**;
- “Patients first” does not mean we always provide what is wanted, but we practice **evidenced-based** medicine and provide what is needed;
- We endeavor to **communicate and understand**;
- We are not afraid to say **“I am sorry,” “I don’t know,”** or ask for help.

5. **“Shipmates always”**:

- We will provide outstanding service, **regardless of rank, service, retired, or family member**;
- We will take care of each other, **whether on permanent orders to us, temporarily assigned to us, in uniform or not**;
- We will treat each other with **respect and dignity**;

- We will challenge each other to **innovate, to excel, and work as One Team**;
- We will **embrace diversity** as the platform for capitalizing on the uniqueness we each possess and the strength it provides in support of our mission;
- We will adhere to **Navy Core Values: Honesty, Courage and Commitment!**

In closing, success is "**We**" not a "Me" phenomena. By adhering to the aforementioned principles, I firmly believe our success as a Command and as Individuals is guaranteed. I ask you to join me, to reach beyond the norm, to challenge all assumptions, to challenge yourself, and always push yourself:

**"Patients first, Shipmates always!"**



F. J. McDONALD