



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS RODNEY M. DAVIS
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From: Commanding Officer, USS RODNEY M DAVIS (FFG-60)

Subj: COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

1. Sergeant Rodney Maxwell Davis was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service during the Vietnam War. While his unit was under attack, he returned enemy fire and encouraged his fellow marines to fight back. When an enemy grenade landed in the trench, he threw himself on the grenade, sacrificing his life to save his marine brothers and enabling his platoon to hold their position.

2. I can think of no higher honor than to serve on a warship named after this hero. My command philosophy is a direct reflection of his selflessness and courage, his Bold Runner spirit:

RMD = Respect your shipmates, execute the Mission, and Do your best.

3. **Respect your shipmates.**

Respect is non-negotiable - we cannot work effectively as a team if we don't get along with one another. We must treat each other with dignity and common courtesy, up and down the chain of command. Good manners are like lube oil - they reduce friction and help people work together.

4. **Execute the Mission.**

Our mission is to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea. Everything we do focuses toward this end. The Navy has systems in place for us to follow, and it's up to us to execute. These principles are critical:

- *Integrity* - do the right thing.
- *Ownership* - it's your equipment, your program, your watch - own it.
- *Procedural Compliance* - follow PMS, EOSS, tactical pubs, Rules of the Road, etc. Procedures are developed for a reason - follow them.
- *Questioning Attitude* - speak up if something doesn't look right.
- *Forceful Backup* - help each other out. Don't let a shipmate fail when you can help him succeed.

5. **Do your best!**

Why bother with anything less? We all make mistakes and we all have bad days. However, when you're facing a challenge, ask yourself: what would Rodney M. Davis do?

6. We are here to execute the mission, but if we don't respect our shipmates and foster an environment in which we all can give our best effort, we will fail. For us to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea, we must work together as a team to maintain, train, and operate. That's what being a Bold Runner means to me - it's all about RMD:

Respect your shipmates, execute the **M**ission, and **D**o your best.

T. E. WHALEN

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