

# Command Philosophy

Our Core Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to duty are the driving force behind our three guiding principles of BERTHOLF's Command Philosophy.

**Take care of yourself** – We are called upon to do a very difficult job; a job which most in our service do not undertake. It is not an easy job, but it is a rewarding job. None of us onboard this ship can do our job if we are not taking care of ourselves. We must strive to be in our best shape, physically, mentally, and professionally, to meet the demands our operational areas and missions place upon us. We need to be healthy and fit physically. We *must*, ensure our mental wellness is cared for and *in top condition*. Professional development is also a major part of taking care of yourself. All onboard will reach and maintain certifications and qualifications required of us and once achieved, strive for more.

**Take care of your shipmate** – By taking care of ourselves and being the best we can be, we are greatest positioned to take care of what is most important on BERTHOLF – our shipmates. Just as you care for yourself, you must care for your shipmates. Furthermore, onboard a cutter, your shipmates are more than just people you work with. They are your friends, trusted and relied upon partners, and your extended family. Yes, your family. And just like family, we treat our shipmates with the utmost respect and dignity. We care for them, we support them, we give of ourselves for them. We will use intrusive techniques to ensure our shipmates have what they need to be in the best shape physically, mentally, and professionally. BERTHOLF will promote and maintain a culture that energizes actions to prevent harmful behaviors. We will welcome new shipmates, assist in their training, and most importantly, set them up for success by demonstrating how a BERTHOLF cutterman models customs, courtesies, traditions AND epitomizes our Core Values.

**Take care of our ship** – Our ship is a direct reflection of who we are as a crew. We will ensure her outward appearance is sharp and seaman-like. She is our platform for undertaking the mission charged to us but, just as importantly, she is our home. Her interior will be clean and orderly, providing a healthy, comfortable, and conducive environment to work and live in. A clean ship is a happy ship. We will face debilitating casualties, obsolete parts and systems, and the usual trials and tribulations of keeping a hard-working ship of the sea fully mission capable. To the utmost best of our ability, we will maintain and upkeep our ship in line with our long-standing traditions, policies, and procedures of a professional seagoing service. We will practice the timeless sailor's adage of leaving it better than we found it.

As we endeavor to follow these three guiding principles, we *take care of the mission!*

USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750)

“Legends Begin Here!”