

What Qualities Does the U.S. Navy value?

GRADES 5-12



Overview

This activity is geared toward participants in grades 5-12. The estimated amount of time to deliver this lesson is 60 minutes.

The U.S. Navy, along with other branches of the armed forces, has a strict code of ethics and values. In this lesson, participants will discuss *The Bluejacket's Manual* from 1944 and the ideal sailor it describes. The Navy's idea of an ideal sailor in 1944 was very different from who we understand to be an ideal service member today. Participants will use a modern list of values to compare the two ideas and understand the changes over time.



Objective

Participants will be able to identify the expectations set for a U.S. Navy sailor during World War II and in the present day.



Materials

- The Bluejacket's Manual* (1944), pg. 3-4
- "Signature Behaviors of the 21st Century Sailor"
- Chart Paper
- Markers
- Paper
- Writing Utensils



Inquiry

Encourage participants to think of qualities they associate with a perfect Navy sailor. These may be personality traits, physical attributes, or any other descriptors they suggest. Write these in a place where the entire group can see them:

- Who is the perfect Navy sailor? What qualities do they possess?
- Why did you choose these qualities?
- What kinds of people might the Navy be looking for?



Investigation

Introduce *The Bluejacket's Manual* to participants. *The Bluejacket's Manual* is a handbook for all Navy sailors, containing information on a wide range of Navy topics. It has been published since 1902, and is currently on its 25th edition. Students will be reading excerpts from the twelfth edition, published in 1944 in the middle of World War II. You may also use a copy of *The Bluejacket's Manual* in your collection from that time period if it has a similar list of values.

As a group, read the sections "Entering the Service," "The Navy's Job," and "The Nature of Duty."

- Who was the intended audience for this edition of *The Bluejacket's Manual*?
- What was the role of that audience within the Navy?
- Does the language used in these introductory paragraphs exclude anyone?

Read the third section, titled "Qualities of a Good Navy Man." Discuss how these qualities compare to the list made at the start of the lesson:

Suggested questions for grades 5-8:

- How is *The Bluejacket's Manual* list similar to or different from your list of the attributes for the perfect Navy sailor?
- Why did the Navy value these qualities?

Suggested questions for grades 9-12:

- What could impact a sailor's desire to show the qualities in the "Good Navy Man" section?
- How might a sailor's desire to show these qualities be impacted if they were limited in their ability to serve in the Navy?

Review page 4 of "Signature Behaviors of the 21st Century Sailor." This page features the Navy Core Values, Navy Ethos, Culture of Excellence Core Themes, Core Attributes and "10 Signature Behaviors of the 21st Century Sailor." Read the signature behaviors:

- What is a “signature behavior?”
- How does this list compare to the one from 1944?
- Do any of these behaviors surprise you?
- What do you predict about the Navy today after reading these behaviors?



Activity

Signature Behaviors (Suggested for grades 5-8):

Have participants share what quality or “signature behavior” they think is most important for their school, community or city. Share the answers, write them out on a chart paper, and vote on the ten most important behaviors.

- Why did you choose these behaviors as most important?
- Are there any behaviors that the Navy values that you do as well?
- How is being in the Navy like being a student or community member?

“Nature of Duty” (Suggested activity for grades 9-12):

In the 1944 edition of *The Bluejacket’s Manual*, the “Nature of Duty” is as follows:

- “Every Navy man has two jobs: he is a fighting man and a specialist. His fighting duty at his battle station comes first; his daily work and his special jobs are important, too. Each man’s job may seem small, but it is part of the fighting efficiency of his ship. Every man’s job is small compared to the ship as a whole, but if one man falls down on his job, the ship may be lost.”

This edition of *The Bluejacket’s Manual* was written in 1944, when there were limits on who was permitted to serve in the Navy and in what capacities. You have read the qualities of a “Good Navy Man” that the Navy desired in 1944 and thought about them critically. You have also read the Navy ethos, core values, core attributes and new “signature behaviors.”

- Rewrite the “Nature of Duty” section from a modern perspective to reflect the people and qualities valued in the 21st century.



Lesson Connection

Explore the qualities that the Navy wanted to cultivate in their sailors in our lesson: **Educational Opportunities.**



Background

The Bluejacket's Manual is a handbook for all Navy sailors, containing information on a wide range of Navy topics. It has been published since 1902, and is currently on its 25th edition. Students will be reading excerpts from the twelfth edition, published in 1944 in the middle of World War II. You may also use a copy of *The Bluejacket's Manual* in your collection from that time period if it has a similar list of values.

While *The Bluejacket's Manual* only explicitly excludes women, other groups were limited in their ability to serve in the Navy during World War II. Women could generally only serve as nurses or in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), a temporary women's reserve. Members of the LGBTQ+ community were banned from serving in the U.S. Military until 1993, and could not serve openly until 2010.

Black sailors were restricted to the steward's branch, serving and cleaning for officers, until 1942. Even after 1942, they only served out of the steward's branch on land, not on combat ships. The first Black officers were not commissioned until 1944 and the military was segregated until 1948. Other racial minorities, like Filipino sailors, were often kept in menial roles with low pay throughout the 20th century.

Throughout the 20th century, the Navy moved toward equal opportunity for everyone who wanted to serve. Black sailors slowly found improved status in the Navy. Women could officially join on a permanent basis in 1948, and almost 50 years later were able to serve on combat ships. In 1971, Filipino sailors were finally able to serve outside the steward's branch. Today, anyone is eligible for any Navy rating.

The Navy continually updated *The Bluejacket's Manual* as well as other instructions to its sailors. Released in 2020, "Signature Behaviors of the 21st Century Sailor" is intended to describe the way an ideal sailor is to act. It describes the core values, attributes, and ethos of the Navy. The "signature behaviors" were developed in conjunction with the Secretary of the Navy's "21st

Century Sailor” initiative, which is focused on promoting wellness, resilience, and collaboration among Navy sailors.



Additional Resources/References

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/21st-Century-Sailor/>

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Portals/55/Support/21stCenturySailor/COE/signature-behaviors.pdf?ver=XTdBCqpOMsUeIFAH39kOVA%3D%3D>



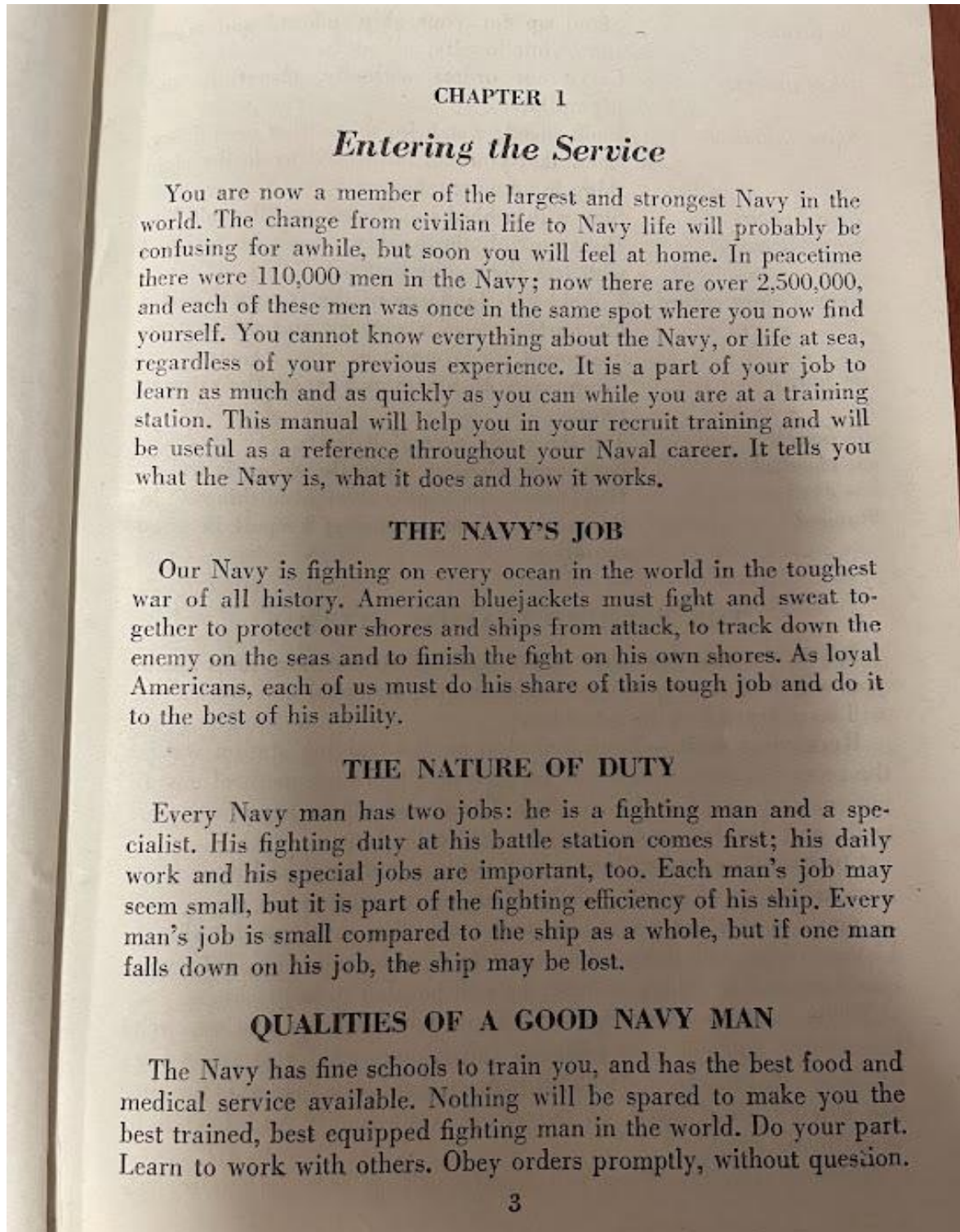
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Documents and Images

Excerpt from *The Bluejacket's Manual*, 1944



Credit: U.S. Naval Institute

Transcript:

CHAPTER 1

Entering the Service

You are now a member of the largest and strongest Navy in the world. The change from civilian life to Navy life will probably be confusing for awhile, but soon you will feel at home. In peacetime there were 110,000 men in the Navy; now there are over 2,500,000, and each of these men was once in the same spot where you now find yourself. You cannot know everything about the Navy, or life at sea, regardless of your previous experience. It is a part of your job to learn as much and as quickly as you can while you are at a training station. This manual will help you in your recruit training and will be useful as a reference throughout your Naval career. It tells you what the Navy is, what it does and how it works.

THE NAVY'S JOB

Our Navy is fighting on every ocean in the world in the toughest war of all history. American bluejackets must fight and sweat together to protect our shores and ships from attack, to track down the enemy on the seas and to finish the fight on his own shores. As loyal Americans, each of us must do his share of this tough job and do it to the best of his ability.

THE NATURE OF DUTY

Every Navy man has two jobs: he is a fighting man and a specialist. His fighting duty at his battle station comes first; his daily work and his special jobs are important, too. Each man's job may seem small, but it is part of the fighting efficiency of his ship. Every man's job is small compared to the ship as a whole, but if one man falls down on his job, the ship may be lost.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD NAVY MAN

The Navy has fine schools to train you, and has the best food and medical service available. Nothing will be spared to make you the best trained, best equipped fighting man in the world. Do your part. Learn to work with others. Obey orders promptly, without question.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NAVY

Be loyal.

Stand up for your ship, officers and crew; show your loyalty.

Obey orders.

Carry out orders willingly, cheerfully and promptly.

Show initiative.

Look ahead; watch for things that need doing. Show that you can be trusted to do the right thing in an emergency.

Be a fighter.

Stay with a hard job. Never say "I can't."

Be reliable.

Do your job thoroughly; don't be satisfied with less than your best.

Keep a clean record.

Uphold the standards of the Navy; this is a big part of Navy teamwork and the first requirement for promotion.

Be fair.

Be square with others and expect the same in return.

Be honest.

Tell the truth, even if it hurts.

Be cheerful.

Keep your chin up when the going is tough. Don't lose your temper over little things.

Be neat.

Be proud of your uniform; keep it in good condition.

Credit: U.S. Naval Institute

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Be loyal: Stand up for your ship, officers and crew; show your loyalty.

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Show initiative: Look ahead; watch for things that need doing. Show that you can be trusted to do the right thing in an emergency.

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Signature Behaviors of the 21st Century Sailor (2020)

WE DEMONSTRATE WHAT WE STAND FOR THROUGH:

Navy Core Values: Honor, Courage, Commitment

Navy Ethos: Integrity, Discipline, Teamwork

Culture of Excellence Core Themes: Toughness, Trust, Connectedness

Core Attributes: Integrity, Accountability, Initiative, Toughness

OUR VISION:

To continue to be the best and most capable Naval force in the world and in the history of the world.

OUR MISSION:

Maintain, train and equip the most effective combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

10 SIGNATURE BEHAVIORS

01. Treat every person with respect
02. Take responsibility for my actions
03. Hold others accountable for their actions
04. Intervene when necessary
05. Be a leader and encourage leadership in others
06. Grow personally and professionally every day
07. Embrace the diversity of ideas, experiences, and backgrounds of individuals
08. Uphold the highest degree of integrity in professional and personal life
09. Exercise discipline in conduct and performance
10. Contribute to team success through actions and attitudes

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