



Christian Report

To Win...To Disciple...To Equip...To Win

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Special points of interest:

- Don't miss this month's book offer.
- Check out the all new CMF website.

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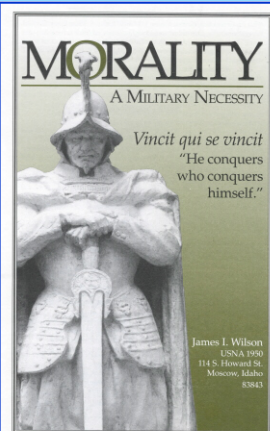
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CMF Operating Principle Number Three—Bob Flynn

3 Encourage members to perform their military duties in a professional manner consistent with obedience to God's commands.

Much has been written about professional excellence. It is one thing to talk about it, yet another to live it. In more peaceful times I would probably lean to an aviation idiom like, "a pilot is only as good as his last landing." But in a time of war, a good landing is one that you can walk away from. There can be no more vivid sermon in a war zone that the one lived by daily devotion to duty and genuine care for those with whom we serve. For one sailor, devotion to duty looked like this:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Petty Officer First Class Williams was serving as Boat Captain and Patrol Officer aboard River Patrol Boat (PBR) 105 accompanied by another patrol boat when the patrol was suddenly taken under fire by 2 en-



Chief Petty Officer James E. Williams, USN (Ret)

emy sampans. Petty Officer First Class Williams immediately ordered the fire returned, killing the crew of 1 enemy boat and causing the other sampan to take refuge in a nearby river inlet. Pursuing the fleeing sampan, the U.S. patrol encountered a heavy volume of small-arms fire from enemy forces, at close range, occupying well-concealed positions along the river bank. Maneuvering through this fire, the patrol confronted a numerically superior enemy force aboard 2 enemy junks and 8 sampans augmented by heavy automatic weapons fire from ashore. In the savage battle that ensued, Petty Officer First Class Williams, with utter disregard for his safety, exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire to direct counter-fire and inspire the actions of his patrol. Recognizing the overwhelming strength of the enemy force, Petty Officer First Class Williams deployed his patrol to await the arrival of armed helicopters. In the course of his movement he discovered an even

larger concentration of enemy boats. Not waiting for the arrival of the armed helicopters, he displayed great initiative and led the patrol boldly through the intense enemy fire and damaged or destroyed 50 enemy sampans and 7 junks. This phase of the action completed, and with the arrival of the armed helicopters, Petty Officer First Class Williams directed the attack on the remaining enemy force. Now virtually dark, and although Petty Officer First Class Williams was aware that his boats would become even better targets, he ordered the patrol boat's search lights turned on to better illuminate the area and moved the patrol perilously close to shore to press the attack. Despite a waning supply of ammunition the patrol successfully engaged the enemy ashore and completed the rout of the enemy force. Under the leadership of Petty Officer First Class Williams, who demonstrated unusual professional skill and indomitable courage throughout the 3-hour battle, the patrol accounted for the destruction or loss of 65 enemy boats and inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy personnel. His extraordinary heroism and exemplary fighting spirit in the face of grave risks inspired the efforts of

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Monthly Book Offer

Forty years is a long time to remember. However, in the early fifties we left San Diego for WesPac. The ship was a long hull Sumner class destroyer.

We had eighteen "boots" aboard. We (probably the captain) decided that these young men needed to be protected, and should be informed of the facts of

life. It was a three-pronged effort. The exec talked to the men in a fatherly sort of way about their mothers, their sisters, their hometown girlfriends, and their wives. This nostalgia was to protect them from waywardness.

An "assigned" chaplain talked with them about absolute morality and sin. And finally, the medical officer and the corpsman taught them about safe sex.

After this thorough instruc-

tion we arrived at Pearl Harbor, where all the old salts took the boots down to Hotel Street in Honolulu. The training had left out the effects of peer pressure.

This book is offered free to our membership while they last. You may order this and other resources from the Members Only "Resources" page of our website or call our toll-free number: 1-800-798-7875.

CMF Operating Principle Number Three—Bob Flynn

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his men to defeat a larger enemy force, and are in keeping with the finest tradi-



tions of the U.S. Naval Service.” Boatswain’s Mate First Class James Elliot Williams was the most decorated enlisted man in Naval history. Williams received the Medal of Honor for his service on the Mekong River, Republic of Vietnam, October 31, 1966. In addition, his awards included the Navy Cross, the Silver Star (with one gold award star), the Legion of Merit (with valor device), the Navy and Marine Corps Medal (with gold star), Bronze Star (with two gold stars and Valor device), Purple Heart (with two gold stars), Navy Commendation (with one gold star and valor device), Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal (with four bronze stars), Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal (with one bronze service star), Korean Service Medal (with two bronze service stars), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service (with two bronze service stars), Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross (with one gold star and palm), United Nations Korean Service Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Chief Petty Officer Williams retired from the Navy in 1967 and returned to South Carolina where he found another

way to serve his country. In 1969, he was appointed U.S. Marshal for the District of South Carolina. Although his exploits in Vietnam were legendary, he was quick to admonish anyone who wanted to talk about his awards. **“You gotta stop and think about your shipmates,”** he said in an interview with



the Navy’s *All Hands Magazine* in 1998. **“That’s what makes you a great person and a great leader—taking care of each other.”** Chief Williams passed away in 1999. Today the UNITED STATES SHIP JAMES E. WILLIAMS DDG 95, bears his name.

The world does not need to hear another sermon, they need to see one. However, there is a rather large pitfall wherein we strive in the flesh for professional excellence only to find we have fallen into the ditch of arrogance. So where do I end and Jesus begin? Perhaps one way to tell is whether you stopped **“to think about your shipmates.”** After all **“that’s what makes you a great person and a great leader—taking care of each other.”**

“The entire law is summed up in a

single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Galatians 5:14 NIV

“By consequence, ‘whatsoever he doeth, it is all to the glory of God.’ In all his employments of every kind, **he not only aims at this** (which is implied in having a single eye), **but actually attains it. His business and refreshments, as well as his prayers, all serve to this great end.** Whether he ‘is in the house, or walk by the way,’ whether he lie down, or rise up, he is promoting, in all he speaks, or does, the one business of his life. Whether he put on his apparel, or labor, or eat and drink, or divert himself from too wasting labor, it is to advance the glory of God, by peace and goodwill among men. His one invariable rule

is this: ‘Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, even the Father, through Him.’” John Wesley, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*.

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved.” (1 Corinthians 10:31-33, NASB)

When I do not love my neighbor, I confess that attitude of my heart to a loving Heavenly Father, who already knows. For the question is not **“who is my neighbor?”** but rather **“whose neighbor am I.”**

New Members

CPT Wes Balmer, USAR
1SG Bob & Becky Bidwell, USA (Ret)
SCPO Carey & Teressa Bollinger, USCG
Ms. Cathy Disher
2LT Dan & Kate Graves, USA
HS2 Karen Hartridge, USCG
Mr. Brad & Sonia Hearn
MSgt Steve Helm, ANG (Ret)
CPT Mike & CPT Tina Martin, USA
Mr. Steve & Karren Palmateer
Chris Quillen
Mr. Ben Ruffner
LT David & Vivian Schuler, USCG
HM2 Mike & Rachael Skelton, USN
Mr. Wendell Willis

Congratulations

Bill & Glory Craig: Our little son, Uilleam Theron Honour Craig, was born at home at 1:15 AM on September 30th, 2005. He weighed in at 9 lbs 8 oz.

Brian & Kammi Armstrong: Aubreyann Claire Armstrong, was born June 13, 2007 at 4:27 AM. She weighed 9 lbs 2 oz, 21 inches long.

Promotions

MAJ John Hoyman, USA
CPT Tina Martin, USA

Marine Challenge

One of our active duty Master Sergeants serving with the United States Marine Corps has offered a challenge to his fellow Marines. For each Marine CMF Member that gives a gift to Christian Military Fellowship in July, August, or September, he will give ten dollars. *Semper Fidelis!*

Local Reps Corner

Spiritual Leadership—Drawing upon their own extensive leadership experience as well as their ministry to leaders in all walks of life, Henry and Richard Blackaby offer insightful counsel into the ways God develops, guides, and empowers spiritual leaders.

This book is available to our Local Representatives. Local Reps may order this from the Local Rep Only page of our website or call 1-800-798-7875.