

COMMODORE, NITRO MEN, GUESTS AND FRIENDS.....

THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE CHANGE OF COMMAND

FUNCTION IS TO INFORM SHIP'S COMPANY THAT THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SHIP IS BEING LIFTED FROM ONE OFFICER AND PLACED ON THE SHOULDERS OF A NEW CAPTAIN.

CONSEQUENTLY THEN, MY REMARKS ARE DIRECTED TO NITRO.

YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TURNED IN AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - NITRO'S REPUTATION CONFIRMS THIS. THAT TAKE'S A LOT OF WILL POWER IN THIS AGE OF MEDIOCRITY AND ANTI-MILITARISM.

(1)

YOU WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE THAT WILL POWER UNTIL THE TV AND PRESS NEWSMAN AGAIN REALIZE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVICE IN A DEMOCRACY IS SECURITY. FOR IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO SECURE YOUR LIBERTIES, THE REST IS TRIVIA.

SO, SPENDING SOME PORTION OF YOUR LIFE IN THE SMALL GROUP OF MEN WHO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF OUR LIBERTIES IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE FRUSTRATING FOR SOME TIME, BUT AMERICANS CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. AMERICAN CITIZENS CAN'T PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON THEIR OWN SECURITY AND THEN FAIL TO INSIST THAT MILITARY PEOPLE

(2)

BE TREATED WITH DECENCY AND RESPECT THROUGHOUT OUR SOCIETY. YOU YOURSELVES MUST REMEMBER AND REMIND OTHERS THAT IT IS ONLY WITHIN THE PERIMETER MANNED BY OUR ARMED FORCES THAT ALL OF US ARE ABLE TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN COMFORT AND FREEDOM, TO PURSUE HAPPINESS EACH IN OUR OWN WAY.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME REMEMBER THAT THROUGHOUT HISTORY, NOT JUST AMERICAN HISTORY, TIME AFTER TIME IT IS JUST A FEW, LIKE YOURSELVES WHO HAVE MADE THE SACRIFICES, THAT INITIALLY SECURE LIBERTIES OR EMANCIPATION FOR THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND HAVE

(3)

BESS CONSTANTLY VIGILANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR FREEDOMS.

I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH CDR. DAVIS AT THE COMN.