

To: Chief of Naval Operations

[REDACTED]  
August 6, 1971

Dear Sirs:

I am a civilian physician, newly assigned to your command. I have been active for several years in dissent about the war. I have recently been drafted, but my application for conscientious objector status has been refused (without reading) by my local draft board. This letter is to notify you of my intentions regarding service with your command.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to you in February, 1969, resigning my commission as medical officer in the US Navy Reserve. Since then, my beliefs have evolved somewhat, and are fully stated in the enclosed copy of my application for conscientious objector classification. The publication of the "Pentagon Papers" has confirmed some of the governmental deception suggested by my earlier readings. It is clear to me that the Executive Branch of the United States Government is not worthy of the trust or support of its constituents in such grave matters.

Therefore, I intend:

- a. to continue resisting the US participation in Southeast Asia
- b. to offer no cooperation whatever to US goals in Indochina, or to the United States military establishment in general.

Sincerely,

John William Taylor M.D. *WTD*

copy to Maryland State HQ, Selective Service, requesting reconsideration of CO apphc.  
sent Aug 6

Sent to Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt.  
My future wife, Ann Williams (whom I met four years later) cared for Adm. Zumwalt's son during his fight with cancer a decade later. Her help is acknowledged in the Zumwalts' book My Father, My Son (MacMillan, 1986).  
see: <http://www.amazon.com/My-Father-Son-Elmo-Zumwalt/dp/0026336308>