

January 7, 1974

ADMIRAL ELMO ZUMWALT, 'THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE NAVY,'  
IS SUBJECT OF 'NBC NEWS REPORTS' TELEVISION SPECIAL

"The United States Navy is changing and one man is leading that change. Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations, who is known to almost everybody but his subordinates as Bud, has changed the Navy more in three-and-a-half-years than it changed in the previous century."

At least that is the opinion of NBC News producer Wallace Westfeldt, who is talking about Admiral Zumwalt's new ideas in Naval practice and operation as a military and social institution -- and how it affects personnel and their relationships with each other. The subject will be examined in a special "NBC News Reports" program titled "The Man Who Changed the Navy," to be colorcast Tuesday, Feb. 5 (10 to 11 p.m. NYT), on the NBC Television Network. NBC News correspondent Steve Delaney reports.

Announcement of the program was made today by Reuven Frank, Senior Executive Producer, NBC News.

The special will profile Admiral Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations, and it is through him the report will be made, reflecting the changes and new social philosophy already underway in this oldest of military services.

"During the past three years, the Navy has been brought in touch rather dramatically with contemporary society," said Mr. Westfeldt. "What this means is that a whole way of life and tradition had to be changed around in a major military institution.

"The man most responsible for this is Admiral Zumwalt. The Navy was so badly behind the times in terms of personnel and social

(more)

'The Man Who Changed the Navy' - 2

policy when he took over, that the basic problem wasn't ships or money, but people. The Navy was losing talent so fast that if the dropout rate continued, in a few years they wouldn't have enough people to run the ships -- it was that simple."

Probing the social area of the Navy, the program points out that the integration problem within the service is still unsolved but is improving. Approximately a year ago, the Navy experienced three traumatic racial incidents on three ships, two carriers and an oil tender. Zumwalt moved to control what could have become a serious crisis for the whole organization by instigating a series of new personal relations training programs to deal with the problem. By July, 1974, almost 100 percent of Naval personnel will have participated in the programs. These and other social areas will be explored for the television viewer during an in-depth interview with Admiral Zumwalt on the program.

Not only the social structure of the Navy is being altered but also the military base. To draw a comparison between the old and the new, the program will present a filmed history of the Navy. Scenes of the white-starched traditions of past years will be shown including the 30's, World War II, the 40's, 50's, and 60's.

To help describe Zumwalt's new Navy, Mr. Westfeldt and his crew made arrangements to film on board Navy ships located around the world. The TV viewer will learn why no more aircraft carriers are planned for construction and why the Navy of the future will be based on fleets of faster, smaller ships, some of which will be capable of 100 knots an hour.

Filming took place in Washington, D.C., where Admiral Zumwalt lives, works and is a part of the government; Norfolk, where the Atlantic

(more)

'The Man Who Changed the Navy' - 3

fleet is located; San Diego, where hundreds of retired admirals live; the Mediterranean, where the Sixth Fleet is engaged in NATO exercises; and Athens, Greece, the home port away from home for the Sixth Fleet.

The program will also discuss the Navy of the future, the Navy run by Admiral Zumwalt's successor -- for many people in the Navy believe Admiral Zumwalt's plans are just the beginning and it is the man who succeeds him who will either push those plans to completion or slow them down.

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