



## TRAINING OFFICER RTC YORKTOWN

Welcome aboard, fellow Coast Guard officers! Your graduation from OCS marks yet another successful transition in your lives, that of becoming one of the nearly 5000 professional officers of the U. S. Coast Guard.

I fully share in the warm wishes for a rewarding and successful experience expressed by the Commanding Officer, Chief, OCS, and graduation speakers. However, rather than reiterate those warm wishes here, I believe a somewhat more sober thought may be of lasting value.

A full and complete transition to professional, operating USCG officer status cannot be done magically by a pronouncement at graduation, receipt of a course completion certificate, or the simple passage of time. If it occurs at all, it will occur only in the fullness of time and only because of your further effort both internally and externally. Your training is not completed, only the formalized regimen of OCS.

The task remaining is for you to gauge the amount, assess the time frame, and undertake an active program of personal growth, adaptation, application, and understanding. While this personal task is in progress, your productivity as a contributing officer in accomplishing the work of the Coast Guard is vitally needed. The billet you occupy has been conditionally rejustified, not only to the congress, but to the entire citizenry of our United States. The manner in which you apply yourself from day-one on is important, but more important is the performance which results from that application. Our entire officer corps system is based firmly upon demonstrated performance (which translates as "I did..."); a necessary prerequisite to any statement of "I did..." is the initial effort, "I tried...".

Just as you never knew until later just when your personal transition to an adult was complete, you will not know until later when you have successfully completed your transition to a professional, operating USCG officer. However, just as interested adults were able to fairly accurately assess your progress towards adulthood, interested professional officers will be able to quite accurately assess your progress in this transition. Seek their counsel, heed their advice.

With the background you had in order to qualify to come here, the training and orientation you have received here in OCS, and the enlightened personal commitment I have attempted to convey, you cannot fail to be a most welcome addition to USCG commissioned officer corps.

C. A. GRUEL