

LOYALTY AND RESPECT

"To attract to the defense service people with ability, dedication, and capacity for growth." That is part of the statement made last August in Philadelphia by Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird when he addressed the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention. He emphasized that "People are our most important asset," and outlined a program he called Human Goals. He listed five ways to attain the Human Goals. The first statement above is the first one he listed.



Secretary Laird believes most young men entering the military are well educated and highly motivated, full of ambition and full of energy. "We must see that the treatment they receive does not frustrate their ambitions or waste their energies," he said.

A characteristic of all mammoth organizations is the ease with which one can get lost in the crowd, forgotten and ignored. If Human Goals are to be achieved, if the attractiveness of a career in Defense is to be brought out, then servicemen and the civilian employee must feel the highest pride in himself and his work. The Secretary of Defense believes it can be done. He offers these guidelines:

"We must show them that loyalty and respect among military ranks are a mutual, not a one-sided relationship--extending downward as well as upward. We must cultivate and train these young men for leadership. We must provide them with personalized career development. Above all, we must make them feel they are important people doing important jobs." (AFPS)

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