

BuPers 1900.5 (ENCL.1)

B-3 There is no single person whom I rely for guidance in religious matters concerning my claim. My guidance is taken from many varied sources, books, religious people, parents and my own judgement of others and my own actions.

Religion, to me, can be based on widely held theories or beliefs, but each person must finally come to his own decision of what is right. To make this decision, each of us must listen to all the people we admire, and study all facets of the issue, After this is done and only then, may we make a judgement that will serve as a guide to our future actions.

B-4 Before I can state whether or not I believe in the use of force, I think the word FORCE must be defined. There are many types of force, some of which I believe in and others I do not.

I do believe in the PEACEFUL FORCE as was advocated by Ghandi, Marten Luther King, and demonstrated by their followers. This can be used very effectively to limit the evils being committed by our society. A more recent example of this is the Czech resistance to the Russian invasion of their homeland.

I believe in the use of FINANCIAL FORCE as used by striking unions or by boycotts. History has shown repeatedly the effectiveness of this form of force.

The use of FORCE by lawfully appointed members of a police department, but only so far as to be lawful within itself is another type of force I believe in. Misuse of this or any of the before mentioned types of FORCE is, in my opinion, wrong.

Personal Physical FORCE is also correct and at times necessary, but only as a last resort. One should never allow himself to be placed in a situation where this is the only solution. I realize that this is unavoidable at times and that in those few instances, FORCE, is only correct to the extent that it is limited to that which is necessary to render the attack useless. At no time may this be used to excuse the taking of another human being's life.

I believe in the uses of force as I have described above, but I do not believe in the training and arming of large bodies of men for the express purpose of killing. There is a large difference between the use of force on a one to one basis and the use of force between nation - each one killing indiscriminately in an effort to win." It is on this basis that I have judged my actions and, having done so, find my actions inconsistent with my beliefs.

B-5        It is only in the past few months that I have reviewed my beliefs, in connection with my present status, and since then the inconsistency of my actions has become sharply focused. The best example of my beliefs is this application itself. However, the basis of my beliefs can be traced to my childhood, as previously stated, and examples of those beliefs have already been given in this application.

          At this time, I would like to add to those given examples one of a more recent date. I was awarded, during the month of March 1968, a letter of commendation as Company Honorman, Co. 032, by D. L. Shoumake, C.S.C., U.S.N., Company Commander of Co. 032, signed by Capt. Collier, U.S.N. at the end of my period of Recruit Training. The basis upon which the selection of Honorman is made is that of service to the men of the company; for example, demonstrated love of man. I believe that this letter is proof of the consistency of my beliefs.

B-6        However, I have publicly and openly talked of my beliefs to my associates at Bainbridge Nuclear Power School and also here at Philadelphia. Several individuals, John Muntean, MMFN, Jerry Hickman, MMFN, and Luther B. Jones, MMFN, and my brother Francis Koster are especially aware of these beliefs. I have spent many hours talking to them. Also, I have spoken to various friends at several universities and colleges.