

STATEMENT OF FEDERATION GRAND ALLIANCE

We, the assembled delegates of the United Federation of Planets and the representatives of the Free Worlds of Klinzhái, in accordance with the principles of Peace and the dictates of mutual respect for all sentient life forms, do hereby pledge our desire to henceforth live in mutual harmony and safety from this day on.

We acknowledge the rights of our respective peoples to live, each in accordance with their own social systems, to share in the wealth of scientific and cultural exchange, to support each other in times of need, and never to forget that we are each free beings, capable of the highest ideals and the grandest vision.

We claim as our mutual heritage the rights of self determination, freedom from oppression or coercion, the right to pursue personal glory in keeping with our own standards and expectations, the benefits of trust and cooperation, and the end of suspicion and racial bigotry.

Thus do we, the assembled representatives of our two governments, henceforth pledge, to ourselves and our posterity, to live in peace so long as a single sun shall shine in our heavens, secure in the knowledge of our own greatness and with the hope of a secure future tomorrow and for all tomorrows to come.

This Officer's Manual is a survey of the current state of the United Federation of Planets and Starfleet Command. Prepared by the United Federation of Planets Office of Academic Training under the auspices of the Commandant of Starfleet Academy, the volume introduces freshmen cadets to the conditions in Starfleet today. It covers Starfleet ranks and decorations, uniforms, equipment, training, weapons, shipboard lifestyles, chain-of-command, starship designs, the Klingon Defense Force, and the advent of the artificial being. This introductory booklet will also serve as a reference or as a supplement to other Starfleet Academy texts.

In recent days, critics of Starfleet have proposed that the Alliance High Council disband Starfleet Command and reallocate its resources to nonviolent pursuits. These advocates of political neutrality argue that the Federation no longer faces the threats that made Starfleet necessary in the past. They point to the breakup of the Klingon Empire, the quiescence of the Orions, the accommodation with the Gorn, and the continuing inaction on the Romulan border. Despite this criticism, Starfleet will continue to exist in the foreseeable future. We cannot ignore the existence of the Imperial Klingon States, which many believe is a refuge for "true Klingons." There is also the growing presence of the Ferengi, a largely unknown but indisputably aggressive race that seems hostile to the principle of individual freedom. Moreover, the quiet Romulans wait and watch for signs of weakness or lack of resolve as they plan for a final reckoning.

Beyond the issue of outside threats, there is also disagreement within the Alliance over how to maintain peace. Some argue that planetary governments should determine their own defensive needs, and that Starfleet should disband in favor of planetary navies. There are also those who forget that Starfleet exists not simply to maintain peace, nor even to maintain individual cultures. What Starfleet stands for is the belief that sentient races can live in harmony and respect for individual rights.

Since its founding, Starfleet Command has been enmeshed in controversy and constant change. This is even truer today because of the events of the last several decades. Among these are the introduction of new technologies (originating in both the civilian and military sectors), the revision of training procedures to include more races in Starfleet, the adoption of policies allowing civilian personnel aboard fleet vessels, and the introduction of new officer grades and command positions. The Starfleet of today, both in structure and in mission, is the result of an evolutionary process extending over many decades. Starfleet has grown and changed to meet new demands and challenges, and it will continue to do so.

—Admiral Thrifis Chovich, Commandant, Starfleet Academy

