

Dear CCNW Debate Participants,

CCNW develops its Team Policy Debate Resolution with the expectation that debates conducted under it will address the specific policy areas covered by the selected topic. The words in the Resolution have been crafted to make the intent of the CCNW Board clear as to what are, and what are not, acceptable grounds for debate. The purpose of this letter is to further clarify the intent of the CCNW Board and assist participants to prepare for and engage in productive debates while avoiding unnecessary Topicality challenges.

The Resolution for the 2013-2014 CCNW Team Policy Debate Season is:

"Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially change the overall size, force composition and/or stated operational mission priorities of the active duty combat forces of the United States Army and/or the United States Navy to better defend United States interests."

The intent of this year's Resolution is to foster debate about the size and composition of the United States Army and/or the United States Navy and the tasks they have been created to perform. Underlying these debates will be the fundamental reasons for the existence of military forces and the appropriate circumstances for the use of military force.

“stated operational mission priorities” These are the overall strategic military objectives for the Army and/or Navy as stated by current, official U.S. Government documents such as the “2012 Army Strategic Planning Guidance, April 19, 2012” for the Army and the “Statement of Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, Before Congress on FY 2013 Department of Navy Posture, March 2012” for the Navy.

“active duty combat forces of the United States Army” The elements of the Army included in this definition are limited to those active duty forces currently operating as part of the Army Service Component Commands. (Africa, Central, North, South, Europe, Pacific, Special Operations, Surface Deployment and Distribution, Space and Missile Defense/Strategic) Army Direct Reporting Units are not included as Topical under this Resolution. (Network Enterprise, Medical, Intelligence and Security, Criminal Investigation, Corps of Engineers, Military District of Washington, Test and Evaluation, Military Academy, Army Reserve, Acquisition Support, Installation Management)

“active duty combat forces of ... the United States Navy” The elements of the Navy included in this definition include and are limited to those active duty forces operating as part of the following commands: Fleet Forces Command, Pacific Fleet, Naval Forces Central Command, Naval Forces Europe, Special Warfare Command. The following elements are not included as Topical under this Resolution: Naval Network Warfare Command, Navy Reserve, Operational Test and Evaluation Force, Military Sealift Command.

The CCNW Board recognizes that there may be various interconnected relationships between the elements of the Army and Navy that are Topical and non-Topical elements of the Army and Navy, as well as the other United States Armed Forces. Fiat power under this resolution is strictly limited to changes to “*the active duty combat forces of the United States Army and/or the United States Navy.*” Fiat power does not extend to any other organization, entity or activity.

Judges Instructions

Judges will be instructed in the following manner regarding Topicality:

In order for an Affirmative Case to be found Topical, the Affirmative Team must demonstrate a legitimate and reasonable attempt to accomplish each of the items presented below. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Affirmative Team to be prepared to defend their position with respect to each of these points.

Affirmative Cases under this Resolution must:

- 1) Propose to “substantially change” The intent of this language is that the Affirmative proposal be important enough, of sufficient merit, that a diligent Negative could reasonably anticipate it and thus be prepared to debate it. Trivial, inconsequential changes should not be proposed. To ensure no confusion arises on the matter, complete abolishment of the active duty combat forces of the Army and/or the Navy can be considered a substantial change and is permissible.
- 2) “active duty combat forces” The intent of this wording is to require debates concerning those elements of the Army and/or the Navy that are comprised of full time, permanent members of the military intended to directly engage hostile enemy forces. The debates are to be about the force elements, not about the characteristics (gender, etc.) of individual service members.
- 3) “better defend United States interests” The intent of this wording is to require debates that address the fundamental issues underlying the reasons for the United States having a full time, professional army and navy, and the situations and manner in which these military organizations are used.

The goal of CCNW is for the debaters to engage in Topical debates (ones falling within the topic area intended by the League) over the Significance, Inherency and Solvency (the Policy issues) of the Affirmative Case. To be allowed to engage in a productive debate, the Affirmative Team must present a case that demonstrably fulfills all of the requirements listed above. In the event of a Topicality challenge it is the duty of the Affirmative Team to convince the judge that their case fulfills all of these requirements. It is not sufficient that the Affirmative Team believe their Case is Topical. They must address each point of the Topicality challenge and demonstrate to the judge they have satisfactorily fulfilled their responsibility.

Finally, with regard to the Negative Team, consistent with published CCNW rules, CCNW expects all Negative Teams to respect the Topicality ruling and raise Topicality challenges only when they are personally convinced that the Case being presented by the Affirmative Team truly fails to meet one or more of the requirements set forth above.

Respectfully Issued By,

The Christian Communicators Northwest Board

The leadership of CCNW wants to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to all of the members of the United States Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard), both Active Duty and Reserve. The debate topic is limited strictly to keep the range of issues manageable by our debaters. Thank you all for your service to our country.