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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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stricture, subjugation, and regimentation will be alleviated upon graduation. However, one must understand that the system of indoctrination here at the Academy is not a preparation for a career that embodies many of the same qualities I do not believe so. No one can deny that the Army is a strictly ordered and regimented organization, far more so than most other professional organizations. It is precisely this strict adherence to doctrine that I find personally objectionable. I do not believe that I can perform, to the best of my abilities under a system that can tolerate no deviation from a rigidly prescribed pattern.

As a young adult male, I am obligated to render military service to my country. It is my intention to do so if called upon. However, there is a great deal of difference between voluntarily choosing a military career, and being drafted into the Army. I feel that I am not psychologically prepared to do so. I have never been prepared to receive such an order. Just as some people are not psychologically prepared to become doctors or nurses, some people are not psychologically prepared to serve as career officers. This, of course, is entirely different from those professions. I am simply saying that I am not the type of person who could or would feel comfortable in a profession of this sort. I do not make any profession of this sort. I do not believe so.