

COMDTCHANGENOTE 1000
26 Jun 2015Subj: CH-1 TO THE MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS AND AUTHORIZED ABSENCES,
COMDTINST M1000.8A

1. **PURPOSE.** This Commandant Change Notice publishes a change to the Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8A.
2. **ACTION.** All Coast Guard unit commanders, commanding officers, officer-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements must comply with the provisions of this Commandant Change Notice. Internet release is authorized.
3. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** With the addition of this Commandant Change Notice, the Military Assignments and Authorized Absences manual, COMDTINST M1000.8A, is updated.
4. **DISCLAIMER.** This document is intended to provide operational requirements for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
5. **MAJOR CHANGES.** The change notice establishes the following major changes:
 - a. Establishes Consideration of Request for PCS by Victim of Sexual Assault, Chapter 1.A.17.

Replaces the phrase “physical condition” in Chapter 2.A.5.f.(1).(a) with the phrase “medical condition.”
 - b. Establishes additional criteria for no-fault disenrollment to include “victims of sexual assault, where the assault occurred after the accession into the Coast Guard and throughout the duration of their designated Class “A” School,” Chapter 1.C.4.b.(2).(a).
6. **DISTRUBUTION.** No paper distribution will be made of this Manual. Official distribution will be via the Coast Guard Directive System (CGDS) DVD. An electronic version will be

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 166

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X						
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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

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located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Intranet:
<http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/CGDirectives/Welcome.htm>, Internet:
<http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal:
<https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>

7. **PROCEDURE**. If maintaining a paper library, remove and replace the following pages of the Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8A:

<u>Remove</u>	<u>Replace</u>
Pages i-xv	Pages i-xv
Pages 1-29	Pages 1-29 – 1-29A
Page 1-65 – 1-68	Page 1-65 – 1-68
Page 2-9 – 2-10	Page 2-9 – 2-10

8. **RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**. This Commandant Change Notice has been evaluated for potential records management impacts. The development of this Commandant Change Notice has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements, and the Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not have any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
9. **ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS**.
 - a. The development of this Commandant Change Notice and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, and are categorically excluded (CE) under current USCG CE # 33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series). Because this Manual contains guidance on, and provisions for, compliance with applicable environmental mandates, Coast Guard categorical exclusion #33 is appropriate.
 - b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Manual must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Policy NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.
10. **FORMS/REPORTS**. The forms referenced in this Commandant Change Notice are available in USCG Electronic Forms on the Standard Workstation or on the Internet:

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<http://www.uscg.mil/forms/>; CG Portal at
<https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/forms/SitePages/Home.aspx>; and Intranet at
<http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/CGForms>.

11. **REQUESTS FOR CHANGES**. Units and individuals may recommend changes via their chain of command using the Coast Guard memorandum to: HQS-PolicyandStandards@uscg.mil.

D. T. Mathers /s/
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Acting Director of Reserve and Military Personnel
Directorate

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necessary before a decision is made.

- (3) If a social climate concern is presented by a military member or command, and upon Commander (CG PSC's) review is found not to be adequately supported by actual social climate conditions, the concern need not be considered further in the assignment process. Commander (CG PSC-EPM), (CG PSC-OPM) or (CG PSC-RPM), as appropriate, is the final authority on assignment decisions in such matters.

1.A.16.d. Social Climate Transfer

When a social climate incident is formally reported, and the findings show that the rights of a Coast Guard military member or dependent of a military member have been violated, a possible option for resolution is to transfer the military member. Generally, this option is only considered with the member's concurrence and only after the unit commander has been unable to resolve the complaint with local officials. Consistent with service need and the unit commander's recommendation, Commander (CG PSC) will consider such requests, if it appears the local social climate conditions will likely subject the member or dependent to additional discrimination or harassment in the future. Consultation between Commander (CG PSC) and Commandant (CG-00H), the unit commander, and the member is often necessary. Reassignment in such cases is not guaranteed, as service need may require the member to remain in the area until a replacement is found or the member completes the tour of duty. See the Social Climate Incident Process Flowchart in Chapter 3 of reference (h), Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual, COMDTINST M5350.4 (series), for details.

1.A.17. Consideration of Request for PCS by Victim of Sexual Assault

1.A.17.a. Background

- (1) **10 U.S.C. 673 requires consideration of PCS based on the request of a victim of sexual assault, stalking, or other sexual misconduct.**
- (2) **The term victim applies to anyone who files an unrestricted report, whether the investigation has been completed or not.**
- (3) **A presumption shall be established in favor of transferring a Service member (who initiated the transfer request) following an unrestricted report of sexual assault.**
- (4) **For Selected Reserve members, the below applies only to Selected Reserve assignments and not to ADOS or other short term assignments.**

1.A.17.b. Timeline

- (1) **Victims who make an unrestricted report in accordance with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program, COMDTINST 1754.10 (series) may**

submit a request for PCS transfer through their commanding officer (CO). The request must be made at the same unit the unrestricted report was made. If the offense occurred at a previous unit, a request can still be made, but the below timelines and CO/flag review do not apply. Prior to making the request, the member shall be given the opportunity to discuss the decision with a Special Victim Counsel.

- (2) The victim's request does not need to list a specific billet for requested transfer. However, victims are encouraged to submit their desired billets. Assignments will be made with consideration for victim recovery and the availability of support resources.**
- (3) The commanding officer must forward the request, with their recommendation, to CG PSC within 72 hours.**
- (4) CG PSC-opm/epm/rpm will either approve or disapprove within two weeks of receiving the request. If approved, CG PSC will work with appropriate stakeholders to determine an appropriate billet.**
- (5) Victims, whose requests are disapproved, have seven days, from the date of notification of disapproval, to appeal the disapproval and forward their request to the first flag officer in their chain of command. This flag officer must forward the appeal, with their recommendation, to Commander, CG PSC within 72 hours.**
- (6) Commander, CG PSC will approve or disapprove within two weeks of receiving the request from the chain of command flag officer. If approved, CG PSC will work with appropriate stakeholders to determine an appropriate billet.**

the previous unit's chain of command. All class "A" School training commands will request assignment of disenrollees by message to Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2) or (CG PSC-RPM) as appropriate, within 72 hours of a member's disenrollment. The message will include the following information:

- (a) Disenrollee's name and EMPLID number,
 - (b) Reason for disenrollment (e.g., ineligibility, member's request, fault due to member's own actions, academic, or other - explain),
 - (c) Date disenrolled,
 - (d) Date reported to training command,
 - (e) Type of orders under which member was directed to attend school (PCS/TEMDUINS, PCS/DUINS, or TEMDUINS),
 - (f) Number of dependent(s),
 - (g) Location of dependent(s), and
 - (h) At least four assignment choices.
- (2) Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2) will utilize the following guidelines when responding to a disenrollment message:
- (a) For a no-fault disenrollment, which includes failure to meet academic or physical fitness requirements despite member's best efforts to succeed, injuries in the line of duty, bona fide family emergencies, **or victims of sexual assault who were assaulted after accession into the Coast Guard**, Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2) will normally transfer the member to a unit near the training center based on service needs. The member may resubmit another Class "A" School Training Request, Form CG-5286, immediately upon disenrollment. After two no-fault disenrollments, the member is prohibited from reapplying to any "A" School for one year from the date of second disenrollment.
 - (b) For a fault disenrollment, which includes cheating, misconduct, injuries not in the line of duty, non-judicial punishment, or voluntary disenrollment, Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2) will transfer the member to meet service needs. The member is prohibited from reapplying to any "A" School for one year from the date of disenrollment.
 - (c) For a failure to meet eligibility requirements, which includes failure to meet obligated service requirements (See Article 1.B.6. of this Manual and reference (j), Performance, Training and Education Manual, COMDTINST M1500.10 (series).); minimum training prerequisites, or weight/physical fitness standards per

reference (l), Coast Guard Weight and Body Fat Standards Program Manual, COMDTINST M1020.8 (series), Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2) will normally transfer the member back to their previous unit.

1.C.5. Duties of Medical Personnel and Geneva Convention

1.C.5.a. Primary Duties Other than Medical

Members trained for medical duties such as health services technicians who are assigned primary duties by Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2) other than medical, are not considered medical personnel for the purposes of the Geneva Convention. These primary duties may include, but are not limited to, special agent, recruit company commander, and ceremonial honor guard. Members so assigned will not have any exemptions or protections provided for medical personnel by the Geneva Convention.

1.C.5.b. Utilization of Medical Personnel

Commanding officers are authorized to assign medical personnel whose primary duties are health care, to general duties, except as noted below:

- (1) Medical personnel are not to be utilized for duties that require the bearing of arms (except for the limited purposes allowed by the Geneva Conventions for their own defense or protection of the wounded and sick in their charge), even though the bearing of arms may be purely ceremonial.
 - (2) Medical personnel are not to be utilized for combat duties that are not related to medical care or administration.
-

1.C.6. Assignment as Officer In Charge (OIC)

1.C.6.a. Program Manager

Commandant (CG-731) is the Headquarters program manager responsible for OIC review board procedures. Commandant (CG-731) will maintain the review board process with input from Commandant (CG-751) and the BM rating force master chief (RFMC) and will:

- (1) Conduct periodic reviews of the process.
- (2) Update policy and procedures as needed.
- (3) Change policy and procedures as needed.
- (4) Provide feedback to area/district OIC review board coordinators.
- (5) Conduct phone conference with district board presidents prior to the OIC review

board cycle identified in Article 1.C.6.d.1. of this Manual.

Note 1: The BM RFMC will implement measurement procedures and capture data and disseminate to include: pass/fail rates, and reasons people did not pass.

Note 2: Recommended changes to, or comments regarding, the OIC review board process will be forwarded to Commandant (CG-731).

1.C.6.b. General

- (1) Currently, OIC positions exist in the boatswain's mate (BM) and electronics technician (ET) ratings. All members assigned to OIC positions require certification that they are OIC qualified. BMs must be certified by a district/sector pre-board, followed by an area/district review board. ETs are certified by a Headquarters screening of personnel data records (PDRs) and command recommendations conducted by Commander (CG PSC-EPM-2), and appropriate program managers.
- (2) OIC review boards may ask questions to determine if a candidate is suitable for an OIC assignment Coast Guard-wide. Questions should be based on Coast Guard-wide operations and not limited to a particular district's procedures. Written tests and questions that are graded elsewhere are discouraged. Boards should ask open-ended questions to determine a candidate's leadership, ethics, and professionalism. Board members will be directed to refrain from the use of role-playing scenarios and asking obscure questions not directly related to command. Topics covered should include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) Readiness,
 - (b) Discipline,
 - (c) Economy of command/finance/supply,
 - (d) Coast Guard missions,
 - (e) Safety,
 - (f) Wellbeing of personnel,
 - (g) Training and education,
 - (h) Inspections,
 - (i) Public affairs,
 - (j) Force protection,
 - (k) Human relations,

- (l) Diversity, and
 - (m) Operational risk management.
- (3) OIC review boards will be abbreviated appropriately for candidates who have already earned OIC certification but are sitting before the board seeking additional competencies. The board president will provide specific guidance in these instances.

Note 1: BMs are required to be certified ashore and afloat, multi-mission or ATON, for advancement to BMCS and BMCM. ETs currently have no requirement to be OIC certified for advancement to E-8 or E-9.

Note 2: BMs, unless previously certified for both ashore and afloat OIC, should request to be scheduled for an OIC review board within one year of advancement to BMC. BM 1's with over two years time in grade may be scheduled for the review board. BM 1s who have less than two years' time in grade but who have served satisfactorily for 12 consecutive months in a designated XPO position may also be scheduled for the review board. Waiver requests for any time requirements will be forwarded to Commandant (CG-731) via the requesting member's chain of command for consideration. Board certification of a BM's capability to serve as OIC ashore and afloat will be mandatory prior to participation in the BMCS or BMCM SWE. No waivers will be given. BMs who are already in paygrade E-8 and do not hold an OIC ashore and afloat certification, (i.e., certification rescinded after advancement to E-8), may not compete in the BMCM SWE until they receive certification. BMCs or BMCSs who lose certification due to a relief for cause may not compete in the SWE for the next pay grade until they appear before a district/area review board and are recertified.

Note 3: All members who have had their certification removed for cause must wait a minimum of two years after removal to be eligible for recertification.

1.C.6.c. OIC Review Board Coordinator

The Pacific Area Commander and Atlantic district commanders will designate, in writing, an OIC review board coordinator. The board coordinator has the overall responsibility to conduct the board and supervises the entire process. The board coordinator is responsible for all aspects of establishing the board including determining timelines, location, obtaining supplies, and coordinating with the board president in the selection of the board members. The coordinator will:

- (1) Release a solicitation message for each board,
- (2) Coordinate logistics,
- (3) Handle administrative requirements,

(CG PSC-EPM) of the date and hour of arrival at a "waiting point" or home. A form for use by the evaluee stating travel itinerary and arrival at the point of selection will be prepared as follows on a separate sheet and enclosed with the orders:

"Enclosure (1) to orders of (Name of Evaluee) Dated (Date): Departed (Duty Station) at (Hour), (Date), by: (Transportation Mode: Private Auto, Rail, Commercial Air, etc.). Arrived (Home of Record or Other Place Selected) at (Hour), (Date)."

(Evaluee's Signature)"

- (10) Before leaving the current duty station, those parts of the separation or release process, including applicable portions of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, requiring the presence of the evaluee will be completed so final retirement, discharge, or release action can be accomplished by mail, when later directed.

2.A.5.f. Sick Leave

- (1) Sick leave is granted for illness, injury, and convalescence. In all cases, sick leave that exceeds two days will be reported in accordance with reference (c), Personnel and Pay Procedures Manual, PPCINST M1000.2 (series). Sick leave, not to exceed a cumulative total of 30 days (except as authorized in Article 2.A.5.g. of this Manual) for any one illness or injury, may be granted by district commanders and commanding officers without approval of the Commandant under the following conditions:
 - (a) To personnel who have been under medical treatment and whose **medical condition** precludes a return to duty, but does not necessitate further active treatment, and for whom a period of sick leave has been recommended by a medical officer of one of the Uniformed Services, or in the absence of such officers, by a practicing physician. To personnel who have been excused from duty for treatment, or medically directed self-treatment, in home, barracks, or other non-hospital facilities (hotel, motel, occupying beds in dispensaries, etc.), when such absence is accounted for by a certificate from a medical officer of the Uniformed Services, or in the absence of such officers, by a certificate from a practicing physician showing that the person has been unable to perform duty.
 - (b) Upon recommendation of a medical board or a physical evaluation board.
- (2) When a hospital used by a member of the Coast Guard is located some distance from the district office, the district commander may designate a command, so located as to be more appropriate, to take action in granting sick leave.
- (3) Requests to Commander (CG PSC-OPM), (CG PSC-EPM), or (CG PSC-RPM) for approval of sick leave beyond the limits mentioned above will be via Coast Guard memorandum and will include full justification by competent medical authority as to

why additional sick leave is needed. Requests will include the following information:

- (a) Name, rate or grade, and employee ID number.
 - (b) Duty station where member will be assigned if sick leave is not granted.
 - (c) Date last fit for duty. In traumatic injury cases, indicate date of injury.
 - (d) Diagnosis. Use only ICD-9 code. Do not use plain language.
 - (e) Medical or surgical treatment received including dates (briefly in six words or less). Do not describe the specific treatment beyond such descriptions as physical therapy, general surgery, outpatient surgery, etc.
 - (f) Present medical care status (inpatient, outpatient, or discharged).
 - (g) Prognosis for return to duty, include date.
 - (h) Possibility of convening medical board and date.
 - (i) Amount of sick leave utilized to date.
 - (j) Amount of additional sick leave requested.
 - (k) Provide medical reason why member cannot perform light desk work duties, full or part time.
 - (l) Medical point of contact (name and phone number).
- (4) Do not grant sick leave to personnel awaiting administrative processing for discharge who have been evaluated by medical authorities as unsuitable for further service by reason of a character and behavior disorder. Refer exceptional cases to Commander (CG PSC-OPM) or (CG PSC-EPM) with full documentation.

2.A.5.g. Maternity Leave

District commanders and commanding officers may grant maternity leave without the Commandant's approval for prenatal periods up to a cumulative total of 30 days. A medical officer or practicing physician will certify all periods of prenatal leave as necessary. In addition, postnatal leave of 42 days will be granted without referral to Commandant. Members on postnatal leave may, with their physician's concurrence, terminate their leave status sooner. Forward requests for approval of prenatal and postnatal sick leave beyond these limits to Commander (CG PSC-EPM) or (CG PSC-OPM) as prescribed in Article 2.A.5.f. of this Manual.