



COMDTINST 16114.38  
17 OCT 2003

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16114.38

Subj: REGISTER OF SURFMEN

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction establishes the United States Coast Guard Register of Surfmen.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, assistant commandants, Chief Counsel, and special staff offices at Headquarters shall comply with this Instruction. Internet release authorized.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. Personnel Manual, COMDTINST M1000.6(series) and Boat Operations and Training Manual, Volume 1, COMDTINST M16114.32(series), will be updated to reflect the provisions of this Instruction.
4. BACKGROUND. Coast Guard Surfmen are part of a tradition of lifesavers that dates back almost 200 years. The title “surfmen” is derived from the United States Lifesaving Service (USLSS). The rescuers of the USLSS were known as surfmen; these brave and daring men rescued over 178,000 people in distress during the 44-year history of their service. Today, the Coast Guard has retained the title of surfmen for its most highly trained boat handlers. While technology has both reduced the risk of peril on the sea and improved our ability to render aid; operating rescue boats in surf and heavy breaking seas remains one of the most challenging and dangerous tasks Coast Guard boat crews perform. Very few people complete the extensive and difficult training to prove their ability to operate in these conditions and achieve qualification as surfmen.
5. DISCUSSION. The Register is an official list of members who achieve qualification as surfmen. Members will be entered in the Register in order of their original certification date and be assigned a unique register number. The Register recognizes the significant accomplishment of qualifying as surfmen, signifies the membership of individuals in this elite community and honors the shore-based lifesavers from which Surfman have received their legacy.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 140

	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	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1					
B	1	8	10		1		1	1					1					1								
C	1		1	1	1				1		2		1	2		1				1			1			1
D	1			2				3				1														
E	1												1	1					1	1						
F																										
G																										
H																										

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

6. PROCEDURES.

- a. Register Maintenance. Commanding Officer, National Motor Lifeboat School (NMLBS) shall maintain the Register of Surfmen. The Register shall be maintained electronically and in hard copy in an appropriate bound volume.
- b. Register Entries. Register entries in the hard-copy volume shall be made by hand in pen-and-ink under the supervision of the Commanding Officer, NMLBS. Register entries shall consist of (1) number, (2) full name (3) rank at time of qualification (4) date of qualification (5) unit of qualification and (6) platform type. Additionally, notation shall be made in the register when any member retires or departs the service.
- c. Numbering. All members entered in the register shall be assigned a number. Numbers shall be issued in consecutive order beginning with number 1.

(1) Reserved Numbers. Numbers 1 through 134 are reserved as follows:

<b>Register Number(s)</b>	<b>Dedicated to:</b>
1	<b>All men and women who, from the shores of our nation, have rendered aid to those in peril upon the sea.</b>
2-45	<b>Surfmen of the United States Life Saving Service (1871-1915):</b> Each register number from 2 through 45 corresponds to a year of USLSS history from 1871 to 1915.
46-134	<b>Surfmen of the United States Coast Guard (1915-2003):</b> Each register number from 46 through 134 corresponds to a year of Coast Guard history from 1915 to 2003.

Table 1: Reserved Register Numbers

- (2) Members with existing qualification. All qualified surfmen on active duty on 31 Dec 2003 shall be entered in the register in order of original certification as surfmen. Individual numbers shall be assigned in consecutive order to each member, beginning with number 135. Commandant (G-OCS) will issue a certificate to each member that indicates official entry into the Register.
- (3) Newly Certified Surfmen. Members that certify as surfmen shall be entered in the register upon initial certification as surfmen. Individual numbers shall be assigned in consecutive order to each member. Upon certification as surfmen, members shall forward a copy of their qualification letter to Commanding Officer, NMLBS. NMLBS shall enter each member's name into the register and notify Commandant (G-OCS). Commandant G-OCS will then issue a certificate to the member that indicates official entry into the Register.

- (4) Surfmen retired or released from active duty. Members who have retired or been released from active duty prior to 1 Jan 2004 will be entered in the Register under a reserved number. A register number has been reserved for each year of Coast Guard history prior to 2004 as described in Table 1 above. Surfmen will be entered in the register in the year he or she retired or was released from active duty. Years and their corresponding register numbers are listed in Table 2 below:

Register Number	Year Group	Register Number	Year Group	Register Number	Year Group	Register Number	Year Group	Register Number	Year Group
46	1915	64	1933	82	1951	100	1969	118	1987
47	1916	65	1934	83	1952	101	1970	119	1988
48	1917	66	1935	84	1953	102	1971	120	1989
49	1918	67	1936	85	1954	103	1972	121	1990
50	1919	68	1937	86	1955	104	1973	122	1991
51	1920	69	1938	87	1956	105	1974	123	1992
52	1921	70	1939	88	1957	106	1975	124	1993
53	1922	71	1940	89	1958	107	1976	125	1994
54	1923	72	1941	90	1959	108	1977	126	1995
55	1924	73	1942	91	1960	109	1978	127	1996
56	1925	74	1943	92	1961	110	1979	128	1997
57	1926	75	1944	93	1962	111	1980	129	1998
58	1927	76	1945	94	1963	112	1981	130	1999
59	1928	77	1946	95	1964	113	1982	131	2000
60	1929	78	1947	96	1965	114	1983	132	2001
61	1930	79	1948	97	1966	115	1984	133	2002
62	1931	80	1949	98	1967	116	1985	134	2003
63	1932	81	1950	99	1968	117	1986		

Table 2. Register Numbers with Corresponding Years

7. RECORDS. NMLBS shall maintain copies of all surfman qualification letters.
8. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental considerations were examined in the development of this Instruction and have been determined to be not applicable.
9. FORMS AVAILABILITY. None

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