

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Military Qualifications and Insignia

COMDTINST M1200.1A

June 2020

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



COMDTCHANGENOTE 1200
18 NOV 2021

COMMANDANT CHANGE NOTICE 1200

Subj: CH-1 TO MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS AND INSIGNIA, COMDTINST 1200.1A

1. PURPOSE. This Commandant Change Notice publishes a change to the Military Qualifications and Insignia, COMDTINST M1200. 1A.
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, Military Qualifications and Insignia, COMDTINST M1200.1A, 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.
 - a. Correction to Paragraph 3.B.2.a. from " Have met the requirements for temporary entitlement in Paragraph 4.B.1. above; and" to "Have met the requirements for temporary entitlement in Paragraph 3.B.1. above; and".
 - b. Correction to Paragraph 8.C from "Qualifications Required to Earn Marine Safety Insignia, Military Qualifications and Insignia, COMDTINST M1200.1 (series). Questions may be addressed to the Office of Shore Forces (CG-741)." Changed to "The service and qualification requirements for the Marine Safety Insignia and other related policy can be found in, Qualification Required to Earn Marine Safety Insignia, COMDTINST M1200.2. Questions may be addressed to the Office of Shore Forces (CG-741)."

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 170

	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				
B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X							X	
D	X	X		X	X															X					X	
E					X				X														X			
F																	X	X	X							
G																										
H		X			X	X	X				X															

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.

- a. Commandant Office of Environmental Management, Commandant (CG-47) reviewed the development of this Directive and the general policies contained within it, and determined that this policy falls under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion A3. No further environmental analysis is necessary in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 (series).
 - b. This Directive will not result in any substantial change to existing environmental conditions or violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws relating to the protection of the environment. It is the responsibility of the action proponent to evaluate all future specific actions resulting from this policy for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), other applicable environmental mandates, and the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 (series).
7. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Commandant Change Notice. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/directives/> and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/Directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
8. PROCEDURE. If maintaining a paper library, remove and replace the following Sections of the Military Qualifications and Insignia, COMDTINST M1200.1A:

<u>Remove</u>	<u>Replace</u>
Table of Contents	Table of Contents
3-1 - 3-3	3-1 - 3-3
8-1 - 8-2	8-1 - 8-2

9. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. Records created as a result of this Commandant Change Notice, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned in accordance with the records retention schedules located on the Records Resource Center CGPortal site: <https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cg61/CG611/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

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: <https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-C4IT-CG-6/The-Office-of-Information-Management-CG-61/Forms-Management/>; and CG Portal at <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/forms/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

11. SECTION 508. This Commandant Change Notice was created to adhere to Accessibility guidelines and standards as promulgated by the U.S. Access Board. If changes are needed, please communicate with the Coast Guard Section 508 Program Management Office at Section.508@uscg.mil.

12. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Recommendations for changes or improvements to Military Qualifications and Insignia, COMDTINST M1200.1 (series), are welcome and should be submitted via the chain of command to the Office of Military Personnel, Policy and Standards Division, Commandant (CG-1331), at: HQS-PolicyandStandards@uscg.mil.

/DR. D.M. NAVARRO/
Senior Executive Service, U.S. Coast Guard
Director of Military Personnel



COMDTINST M1200.1A
03 JUN 2020

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION M1200.1A

Subj: MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS AND INSIGNIA

- Ref: (a) Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)
 (b) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8 (series)
 (c) Cutter Training and Qualification Manual, COMDTINST M3502.4 (series)
 (d) U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Manual, Volume I, COMDTINST M16114.32 (series)
 (e) Coast Guard Aviation Medicine Manual, COMDTINST M6410.3 (series)
 (f) Officer Accessions, Evaluations, and Promotions, COMDTINST M1000.3 (series)
 (g) Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series)
 (h) Coast Guard Air Operations Manual, COMDTINST M3710.1 (series)
 (i) Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET) Program Manual, COMDTINST M3510.8 (series)
 (j) Port Security Unit Competency Qualification Manual, COMDTINST M1540.11 (series)
 (k) Diving Program Manual, COMDTINST M3150.1 (series)

- PURPOSE.** This Manual establishes Coast Guard policy concerning the designation, certification, and continuing eligibility and entitlements of Coast Guard military personnel for certain operational and professional qualifications. In some instances, this Manual may cite to other directives where relevant policy is separately established.
- ACTION.** All Coast Guard unit commanders, commanding officers, officer-in-charge, deputy and assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements must comply with the provisions of this Manual. Internet release is authorized.
- DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** Military Qualifications and Insignia, COMDTINST M1200.1 is hereby cancelled.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 170

	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	X				
B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X							X	
D	X	X		X	X															X					X	
E					X				X														X			
F																	X	X	X							
G																										
H		X			X	X	X				X															

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

4. DISCUSSION. In the development of this Manual, the consolidated policy was also reorganized to facilitate the prospective future transfer of relevant qualifications policy to existing directives issued by respective program managers. The current intent is that, when policy requirements are relocated to other directives in the future, this Directive will employ pointers to where the policy may then be found, as is already done herein for certain qualifications.
5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
6. MAJOR CHANGES. Changes to Coxswain and Surfman Insignia Eligibility. Removal of Aviation Evaluation Board, Marine Safety Insignia, Port Security Unit (PSU) Insignia qualifications from this Manual and pointers added to existing directives issued by respective program managers.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. The development of this Manual and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, Commandant (CG-47). This Manual is categorically excluded under current Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion DHS A3 from further environmental analysis in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 and the Environmental Planning (EP) Implementing Procedures (IP).
 - b. This Manual 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 policy in this Manual must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, Executive Order 12114, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) NEPA policy, Coast Guard Environmental Planning policy, and compliance with all other applicable environmental mandates.
8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Manual. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/directives/> and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
9. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Manual 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 requirements, and 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.

10. FORMS/REPORTS. Unless otherwise specified, the forms referenced in this Manual are available in USCG Electronic Forms on the Standard Workstation or on the Internet at <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistan-Commandant-for-C4IT-CG-6/The-Office-of-Information-Management-CG-61/Forms-Management/> and CGPortal: <https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/library/forms/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
11. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Recommendations for changes or improvements to this policy directive are welcome and should be submitted via the chain of command to the Office of Military Personnel, Policy and Standards Division, Commandant (CG-1331), at HQS-PolicyandStandards@uscg.mil.

A.W. WILLIAMS /s/
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Acting Deputy Director for Military Personnel

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION 1-1

A. Issuing Qualifications, Certificates, and Insignia 1-1

B. Wearing Insignia 1-1

C. Methods for the Submission of Certification Requests 1-1

CHAPTER 2 COMMAND AFLOAT AND ASHORE..... 2-1

A. Officers.....2-1

B. Enlisted Members2-3

CHAPTER 3 BOAT OPERATIONS 3-1

A. Boat Force Operations.....3-1

B. Coxswain.....3-1

C. Surfman3-2

CHAPTER 4 AVIATION..... 4-1

A. Coast Guard Aviator.....4-1

B. Aviation Maintenance Officer4-4

C. Aircrew4-4

D. Aviation Mission Specialist.....4-5

E. Rescue Swimmer4-5

F. Coast Guard Astronaut.....4-5

CHAPTER 5 MEDICAL..... 5-1

A. Physician Assistant (PA) / Nurse Practitioner (NP).....5-1

B. Aviation Medical Personnel.....5-1

CHAPTER 6 LEGAL 6-1

A. Coast Guard Judge Advocate.....6-1

B. Eligibility.....6-1

C. Procedures.....6-1

CHAPTER 7 RECRUIT COMPANY COMMANDER 7-1

A. Eligibility.....7-1

B. Award Authority7-1

CHAPTER 8 CUTTER OPERATIONS, DIVING, MARINE SAFETY, AND TACTICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT8-1

- A. Cutterman Insignia..... 8-1
- B. Diver Insignia 8-1
- C. Marine Safety Insignia..... 8-1
- D. Tactical Law Enforcement Insignia 8-1
- E. Port Security Unit Insignia..... 8-1

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**A. Issuing Qualifications, Certificates, and Insignia.**

1. Initial Issue. Not all of the qualifications discussed in this Manual have a corresponding insignia or device. For those that do, the initial issue of the insignia will be provided to the individual by the Coast Guard, procured from authorized sources with unit AFC-30 (Allowance Code Funds).

Exception – The initial issue of the Physician Assistant Insignia will be procured and issued by the Office of Health Services, Commandant (CG-112).

2. Subsequent Issue. Subsequent procurements of an insignia are the responsibility of the individual.
3. Certificate. Not all of the qualifications discussed in this Manual have an accompanying certificate. For those that do, the certificate must be signed and provided by the command authority that certified the individual's eligibility for the qualification. Unless specified otherwise, for those qualifications that differentiate between temporary and permanent entitlement, an accompanying certificate will only be issued in conjunction with the member earning permanent entitlement.
4. Presentation. The awarding of insignia and certificates, as applicable, will be made with appropriate accompanying ceremony.

B. Wearing Insignia.

1. Manner of Wear. Insignia must be worn as prescribed in Reference (a), Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6 (series).
2. Who May Wear. Individuals who meet the qualification and certification requirements of this Manual may wear the applicable insignia as authorized for temporary or permanent entitlement. Only officers below Flag rank are authorized to wear the Command at Sea device and the Command Ashore device.
3. Officers Wearing Enlisted Insignia. Certain qualifications have distinctive insignia for enlisted members and officers who achieve the entitlement to wear them. Personnel entitled to wear the enlisted insignia who are subsequently appointed to officer status may continue to wear the enlisted insignia until the qualification requirements to wear the officer insignia have been met, after which the officer insignia must be worn.

- C. Methods for the Submission of Certification Requests. Issuing and award authorities may prescribe specific methods for the submission of requests to certify the entitlement to a qualification. Electronic submission should be used to the maximum extent possible.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 2 COMMAND AFLOAT AND ASHORE**A. Officers.**

1. Command at Sea. The Command at Sea device has been established to provide recognition to those officers who are in command of, or who have successfully commanded, a Coast Guard cutter as a commissioned officer or chief warrant officer.
 - a. Eligibility. Commissioned officers and chief warrant officers of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible to wear the Command at Sea device provided that they meet one of the following criteria:
 - (1) Currently command, or have successfully commanded for a period of six continuous months, a commissioned cutter of the Coast Guard.
 - (2) Currently command, or have successfully commanded for a period of six continuous months, a division of cutters.
 - (3) Currently assigned as commanding officer of a cutter with an augmented crew, or successfully acted in the capacity as commanding officer for a total of six months.
 - (4) Currently assigned to a division of cutters in the capacity as one of the commanding officers, or successfully acted in the capacity as commanding officer for a total of six months.
 - b. Recognition for Previous Command.
 - (1) Eligible officers who are not authorized, by nature of their current assignment, to wear this device should submit requests via the chain of command to Commander, Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (CG PSC) – active duty officers to the Officer Personnel Management Division (CG PSC-OPM), and inactive duty officers to the Reserve Personnel Management Division (CG PSC-RPM) – setting forth their qualifications for recognition.
 - (2) Retired active duty officers who desire authorization should submit requests directly to Commander (CG PSC-OPM); retired inactive duty officers should submit requests directly to Commander (CG PSC-RPM).
2. Command Ashore. The Command Ashore device has been established to provide recognition to those officers who are in command of, or who have successfully commanded, a shore unit of the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve as a commissioned officer or chief warrant officer.
 - a. Eligibility. Commissioned officers and chief warrant officers of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible to wear the Command Ashore device provided they

currently command, or have successfully commanded for a period of six continuous months, a shore unit of the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve.

Note: Command must be inherent in the billet, and there must be 10 or more military personnel permanently assigned to, or attending schools operated by, the unit on a continuing basis. This includes Sector and Activities commands when such units exercise command over subordinate units having 10 or more military personnel permanently assigned.

b. Recognition for Previous Command.

(1) Eligible active duty officers who are not authorized by nature of their current assignment to wear this device, or who command a unit that only meets the size requirement (10 or more permanent military billets) for a limited period of time, should submit requests via the chain of command to Commander (CG PSC-OPM) setting forth their qualifications for recognition. Eligible inactive duty officers should submit requests via the chain of command to Commander (CG PSC-RPM).

(2) Retired active duty officers who desire authorization should submit requests directly to Commander (CG PSC-OPM). Retired inactive duty officers should submit requests directly to Commander (CG PSC-RPM).

3. Successful Completion of Command. The following criteria are considered mandatory for successful command completion. Area and District commanders will be guided by these in making determinations unless unique circumstances dictate additional criteria are necessary.

- a. The officer has fulfilled the eligibility requirements in Paragraph 2.A.1.a. of this Manual for Command at Sea or in Paragraph 2.A.2.a. of this Manual for Command Ashore.
- b. The officer was not removed for cause during the tour.
- c. The officer was not the subject of any disciplinary action during the tour, or the disciplinary action was a result of a minor, isolated incident that was not indicative of the officer's overall performance in command.

4. Award Authority.

- a. Devices. The authority to wear command devices will be granted in writing by the Area or District commander, as appropriate, as follows:

- (1) Active Duty Officers. To officers, including Reserve officers on active duty, currently in command pursuant to orders issued by Commander (CG PSC-OPM), and to these officers upon successful completion of command.
 - (2) Inactive Duty Officers. To officers currently in command pursuant to orders issued by Commander (CG PSC-RPM), and to these officers upon successful completion of command.
- b. Certificates. A Command at Sea Certificate, Form CG-5065, or a Command Ashore Certificate, Form CG-5257, as applicable, will be issued by the Area or District commander, as appropriate, upon successful completion of command or when directed by Commander (CG PSC-OPM or CG PSC-RPM).
 - c. Decisions to NOT Award a Command Device or Certificate. Decisions to not award a command device or certificate must be based on documented facts rather than empty generalities or vague impressions. Any such decisions against granting the device or certificate must be forwarded in writing to Commander (CG PSC) for the record.

B. Enlisted Members.

1. Officer in Charge Afloat. Enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible to wear the Officer in Charge Afloat device provided that they:
 - a. Are currently assigned by Commander, Coast Guard Personnel Service Center, Enlisted Personnel Management Division (CG PSC-EPM), as the designated, not acting, officer in charge (OIC) of a floating unit with an operating facility (OPFAC) number, and the OIC billet requires certification in accordance with Article 1.C.6.d. of Reference (b), Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8 (series); or
 - b. Are verified and documented by proper authority as having satisfactorily served as the designated OIC of a floating unit with an OPFAC number for a minimum period of six months.
2. Officer in Charge Ashore. Enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible to wear the Officer in Charge Ashore device provided that they:
 - a. Are currently assigned by Commander (CG PSC-EPM) as the designated, not acting, OIC of a shore unit with an OPFAC number, and the OIC billet requires certification in accordance with Article 1.C.6.d. of Reference (b), Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8 (series); or

- b. Are verified and documented by proper authority as having satisfactorily served as the designated OIC of a shore unit with an OPFAC number for a minimum period of six months.

3. Award Authority.

- a. Devices. The authority to wear the applicable OIC device will be granted as follows:

- (1) To OICs that meet the above requirements and are currently assigned pursuant to orders issued by Commander (CG PSC-EPM).
- (2) Upon the member's permanent detachment from OIC duty, the command having custody of the Personnel Data Record will, in appropriate cases, grant authority to wear the OIC device for the successful completion of at least six months as OIC.

- b. Certificates. Enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve who are eligible for either OIC device will be furnished the appropriate officer in charge certificate.

- c. Recognition for Previous Command.

- (1) Enlisted personnel on active duty who are not currently serving as OIC, but who have met the eligibility requirements as outlined herein, may submit a request to the command having custody of their Personnel Data Record for authorization.
- (2) Retired and inactive duty personnel who believe they meet the eligibility requirements may submit requests directly to Commander (CG PSC-EPM).

CHAPTER 3 BOAT OPERATIONS

- a. Boat Force Operations. The service and qualification requirements, and other related policy, for the Boat Force Operations insignia recognizing the various levels of professional development within the Boat Force operations community are found in Part 2, Chapter 6, of Reference (d), U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Manual, Volume I, COMDTINST M16114.32 (series).
- b. Coxswain.
1. Eligibility for Temporary Entitlement. Personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible for temporary wear (while assigned to the operational unit or Boat Forces Training Center where certified) of the Coxswain Insignia provided that they complete the Coxswain qualification and certification process for a Coast Guard boat (skiffs, punts, and personal watercraft do not apply).
 2. Eligibility for Permanent Entitlement. Personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible for permanent wear of the Coxswain Insignia provided that they:
 - a. **Have met the requirements for temporary entitlement in Paragraph 3.B.1. above; and**
 - b. Complete five cumulative years of satisfactory service at an operational unit and/or Boat Forces Training Center as a certified coxswain on a Coast Guard boat (skiffs, punts, and personal watercraft do not apply).

Note: At least two of the five years must include service as a certified coxswain at a Coast Guard boat that is 24 feet in length or longer.
 3. Award Authority.
 - a. The authority to wear the Coxswain Insignia will be granted as follows:
 - (1) Currently Serving as a Coxswain. Active duty and Reserve enlisted personnel who are currently serving as coxswains and have completed the eligibility requirements outlined herein may submit requests to the command having custody of their Personnel Data Record for an appropriate Administrative Remarks , Form CG- 3307, entry and authorization.
 - (2) Previously Served as a Coxswain. Once qualified, personnel may continue to wear the insignia without regard to the method of obtaining the competency or their present rate or grade.

- b. Enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve who are eligible for the Coxswain Insignia will be furnished a Coxswain Certificate, Form CG-5063G.

C. Surfman.

- a. Eligibility for Temporary Entitlement. Personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible for temporary wear (while assigned to a surf unit or Boat Forces Training Center where certified) of the Surfman Insignia provided that they:

- (1) Certify as a Surfman at a designated Surf Station or the National Motor Lifeboat School.
- (2) Have appropriate entries made in the Personnel Data Record to reflect certification , and
- (3) Forward a copy of their Surfman qualification letter to Commanding Officer, National Motor Lifeboat School.

- b. Eligibility for Permanent Entitlement. Personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible for permanent wear of the Surfman Insignia provided that they:

- (1) Complete five cumulative years of satisfactory service at an operational unit and/or Boat Forces Training Center as a certified coxswain on a Coast Guard boat (skiffs, punts, and personal watercraft do not apply);
- (2) Be currently or previously certified as a Surfman at a designated Surf Station or the National Motor Lifeboat School;
- (3) Have appropriate entries made in the Personnel Data Record to reflect Surfman certification , or provide supporting documentation to verify previous certification ; and
- (4) Ensure a copy of their Surfman qualification letter has been sent to Commanding Officer, National Motor Lifeboat School.

- c. Award Authority.

- (1) The authority to wear the Surfman Insignia will be granted as follows:
 - (a) Currently Serving as a Surfman. Enlisted members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve currently serving as a Surfman may submit requests to

command having custody of their Personnel Data Record for an appropriate competency code entry. Assignment of the appropriate competency code will serve as authorization to wear the temporary Surfman Insignia.

- (b) Previously Served as a Surfman. Qualified personnel may wear the insignia permanently once they have met the criteria detailed in Paragraph 4.C.2.
- (2) Enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve who are eligible for the Surfman Insignia will be furnished a Surfman Certificate, Form CG-5063L.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 4 AVIATION**A. Coast Guard Aviator.**

1. Authorization and Termination of Coast Guard Aviator Designations.
 - a. A Coast Guard aviator is a commissioned officer of the Coast Guard who has successfully completed an approved military flight training course and has been designated as a Coast Guard aviator by the Commandant. Designation as a Coast Guard aviator carries authorization to wear the Aviator Insignia.
 - b. A student Coast Guard aviator is a commissioned officer or enlisted aviation cadet who is under instruction in an approved flight training program leading to designation as a Coast Guard aviator.
 - c. Officers who hold a Coast Guard aviator designation and resign their commission will have the aviator designation terminated effective on the date of resignation. Individuals who are subsequently appointed as a Reserve officer will not be reassigned their previous Coast Guard aviator designation.
2. Maintaining Physical Qualifications. All aviators in a flying status shall continue to fulfill current flight physical examination requirements and meet the standards prescribed in Reference (e), Coast Guard Aviation Medicine Manual, COMDTINST M6410.3 (series), for Class 1 aviation personnel. Should any aviator fail to meet the prescribed physical standards, for reasons other than obviously transient or temporary conditions, such failure must be documented – in a Report of Medical Examination, DD Form 2808; Report of Medical History, DD Form 2807-1; and Aeromedical Summary with a duty status recommendation – and forwarded to Commander (CG PSC-OPM).
 - a. Commanding Officer Responsibilities. The commanding officer, pending the review by Commander (CG PSC-OPM), and on advice of a military flight surgeon or a military aviation medical officer, will either:
 - (1) Ground the aviator (see Paragraph 5.A.3.a. of this Manual) if the defect is disqualifying; or
 - (2) Restrict the aviator to flight duties for which the aviator was found qualified.
 - b. Commander (CG PSC) Responsibilities. Commander (CG PSC) will make one of the following dispositions:
 - (1) Waiver of defect.

- (2) Restriction to flight duties of lesser tempo commensurate with present temporary physical condition (limited to aviators recuperating from injuries or illness).
 - (3) Termination of flight status.
 - (4) Referral to the Navy Special Board of Flight Surgeons, Pensacola, Florida.
 - (5) Referral to a medical board.
3. Grounding and Suspension from Flight Status.
- a. Grounding. Grounding is an informal and temporary restriction of flight duties. It is normally applied as a consequence of transient illness or incapacitation from which full recovery is expected within a 12-month period. This action is appropriate pending confirmation or final diagnosis of any physical defect, and is typically considered before suspension. Grounding is administered as prescribed by the cognizant commanding officer.
 - b. Suspension. Suspension from flight status is a formal restriction of flight duties which may develop into permanent termination of flight status.
 - (1) Authority to Suspend. The Commandant or the commanding officer of an aviation unit may suspend an officer from flying status under any of the circumstances described in Paragraph 5.A.3.b.(2) below. Suspension orders may be issued verbally or in writing. In those cases where suspension is imposed verbally, the suspending authority will confirm the action in writing as soon as practicable. Suspension orders will cite the appropriate Paragraph as authority.
 - (2) When Suspension may be Imposed. Suspension orders may be issued when:
 - (a) Aviator Evaluation Board. An officer has been referred to an Aviator Evaluation Board in accordance with Reference (f), Officer Accessions, Evaluations, and Promotions, COMDTINST M1000.3 (series).
 - (b) Fear of Flying. An officer shows an incapacitating fear of flying. A suspending authority will suspend from flying status any officer who has professed in writing a fear of flying or who has been found so disposed by examination by a military flight surgeon. When the aviator has indicated a fear of flying in writing, action must be taken to suspend the officer's flight duties in accordance with Paragraph 5.A.3.b.(1) above. In those cases where action has been initiated by a military flight surgeon but the diagnosis is not definite, the aviator must be grounded and the case referred to Commander (CG PSC-OPM). Commander (CG PSC) will make disposition in one or more of the following forms:

- [1] Return the aviator to flight duty.
 - [2] Convene an Aviator Evaluation Board.
 - [3] Order the aviator to be examined by the Navy Special Board of Flight Surgeons at Pensacola, Florida.
- (c) **Voluntary Request.** An officer voluntarily requests termination of flight status. The aviator must be immediately suspended from further flight duties by their commanding officer or administrative senior and will be directed to submit an official request to Commander (CG PSC-OPM) via the chain of command. An advance copy must be forwarded directly to Commander (CG PSC-OPM). A report on the case by a military flight surgeon, preferably Coast Guard, and an e-resume must accompany the request. The date that flight status was suspended must be included in the commanding officer's endorsement.
- (d) **Physical Disqualification.** An officer has been grounded for a physical defect for 12 months. If the defect continues to be disqualifying, the aviator will be suspended from flight status. If the officer met flight requirements for entitlement to pay for the month in which he or she became incapacitated, the waiting period will begin on the first day of the following month; otherwise, it will begin on the first day of the month in which the officer became incapacitated. It is emphasized that even though no suspension is imposed during the waiting period, an officer will not be permitted to fly until certified to be physically qualified for return to flight duties. When suspension becomes necessary, the commanding officer will issue written suspension orders which will include the original date of incapacitation. A copy of the orders will be sent directly to Commander (CG PSC-OPM). In cases where the defect is "prima facie" permanently disqualifying or where qualification is not regained within 12 months, the case must be referred to a medical board. For the effects of suspension upon incentive pay entitlements for all aviator categories, see Reference (g), Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series).
- (3) **Authority to Certify as Physically Qualified.** See Paragraph 2.C.4. of Reference (e), Coast Guard Aviation Medicine Manual, COMDTINST M6410.3 (series).
- (4) **Removal of Suspension.** Except when imposed for voluntary termination (see Paragraph 5.A.3.b.(2)(c) above), suspension may be revoked by the imposing command when the reason for suspension no longer exists. The Commandant may remove any suspension at any time.

4. Aviator Evaluation Board. Moved to Reference (f), Officer Accessions, Evaluations, and Promotions, COMDTINST M1000.3 (series).
 5. Restoration to Duty Involving Flying. Requests for reinstatement must be addressed to Commander (CG PSC-OPM) via the chain of command and must be accompanied by a completed Report of Medical Examination, DD Form 2808. Regardless of the reason for original removal from flight status, an aviator will not normally be considered for reinstatement if flight status was terminated more than 18 months prior to initiation of a request for reinstatement, or if the aviator's age, grade, specialty, and/or previous flight experience indicate that he or she cannot be expected to fill an operational flying billet satisfactorily. A former Coast Guard aviator will not normally be reinstated in flight status when the removal from flight status was a result of any of the following:
 - a. Voluntary request.
 - b. Recommendation of an Aviator Evaluation Board.
 - c. Voluntary acceptance of a change in status or entry into a program which does not require flight status (e.g., Reserve Program Administrator).
 6. Reassignment upon Termination of Flight Status. Aviators whose flight status is terminated as a result of actions taken under Paragraphs 5.A.2., 5.A.3.b., or 5.A.4. of this Manual will be reassigned to duty or released as required by the needs of the Service at that time.
 7. Disciplinary Action. Situations involving aviators where disciplinary action is indicated must be handled in accordance with instructions applicable to all Coast Guard officers. Suspension from duty involving flying is not a disciplinary measure. Further, since the action of an Aviator Evaluation Board is not of a disciplinary nature, its recommendations do not create a bar to disciplinary measures.
- B. Aviation Maintenance Officer. An aviation maintenance officer (AMO) is a designated aviator who has successfully completed an approved course of instruction or program in aircraft maintenance procedures or administration, or a chief warrant officer in the aviation engineering (AVI) specialty. Commander (CG PSC-OPM) designates qualified officers as AMOs.
- C. Aircrew. The requirements for earning and maintaining aircrew designations, and for authorization to wear the Air Crew Insignia, are found in Chapter 8 of Reference (h), Coast Guard Air Operations Manual, COMDTINST M3710.1 (series). Designated (current or lapsed) personnel may wear the Air Crew Insignia. However, authorization is rescinded when either of the following occurs:
1. The commanding officer determines that the individual is no longer professionally qualified and revokes the designation.

2. Contrary to command requirements, the individual no longer volunteers for aircrew flight duty.
- D. Aviation Mission Specialist. See Chapter 8 of Reference (h), Coast Guard Air Operations Manual, COMDTINST M3710.1 (series), for information on the qualification requirements for designation as an aviation mission specialist and on authorization (temporary and permanent) to wear, and maintain entitlement to wear, the Aviation Mission Specialist Insignia.
- E. Rescue Swimmer. Information on the qualification requirements for designation as a rescue swimmer and on authorization to wear, and maintain entitlement to wear, the Rescue Swimmer Insignia are found in Chapter 8 of Reference (h), Coast Guard Air Operations Manual, COMDTINST M3710.1 (series).
- F. Coast Guard Astronaut. Only the Commandant may designate Coast Guard astronauts.
1. Astronaut Pilot. This designation carries the authorization to wear the Coast Guard Astronaut Pilot Insignia. The qualifications for astronaut pilot are:
 - a. Currently on flying status as a Coast Guard pilot;
 - b. Trained, qualified, and certified to fly a powered vehicle designed for flight above 50 miles from the earth's surface; and
 - c. Minimum of one flight as a pilot or mission specialist on an extraterrestrial vehicle in a flight above 50 miles from the earth's surface.
 2. Astronaut Flight Officer. This designation carries the authorization to wear the Coast Guard Astronaut Flight Officer Insignia. The qualifications for astronaut flight officer are:
 - a. Currently on flying status as a flight officer;
 - b. Trained, qualified, and certified to fly as a mission or payload specialist in powered vehicles designed for flight above 50 miles from the earth's surface; and
 - c. Minimum of one flight as a mission or payload specialist in powered vehicles designed for flight above 50 miles from the earth's surface.
 3. Astronaut Specialist. The qualifications for designation as astronaut specialist are:
 - a. Currently on flying status as a shuttle astronaut mission or payload specialist but not qualified as a Coast Guard pilot or flight officer;
 - b. Trained, qualified, and certified as a mission or payload specialist aboard an extraterrestrial vehicle in a flight above 50 miles from the earth's surface; and

- c. Minimum of one flight as a mission or payload specialist aboard an extraterrestrial vehicle in a flight above 50 miles from the earth's surface.

CHAPTER 5 MEDICAL**A. Physician Assistant (PA) / Nurse Practitioner (NP).**

1. Eligibility. Regular and Reserve commissioned officers and U.S. Public Health Service officers serving with the Coast Guard are eligible to wear the Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner Insignia upon designation as a PA or NP by the Office of Health Services, Commandant (CG-112).
2. Requirements.
 - a. Proof of completion of an approved Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner training program;
 - b. Successfully passing a certification or recertification examination; and
 - c. Verification of training and certification by the Quality and Performance Improvement Division, Commandant (CG-1122).

B. Aviation Medical Personnel. See Reference (e), Coast Guard Aviation Medicine Manual, COMDTINST M6410.3 (series), for information on the requirements for designation as a Flight Surgeon, Flight Surgeon Trainee, Aviation Medical Officer, Aeromedical Physician Assistant, or Aeromedical Physician Assistant-Designated, and authorization to wear the corresponding insignia.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 6 LEGAL

- A. Coast Guard Judge Advocate. A Coast Guard Judge Advocate is a commissioned officer who has successfully completed all requirements specified in Paragraph 11.B. below and has been designated as a judge advocate by the Judge Advocate General.
- B. Eligibility. Commissioned officers of the Coast Guard, and commissioned officers of the Coast Guard Reserve serving on active duty or in a Coast Guard Reserve legal billet, are eligible to be designated a judge advocate provided that they are:
1. A graduate of a law school accredited by the American Bar Association;
 2. An active member of the bar of a federal court or the highest court of a state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia; and
 3. Assigned to permanent duty as a judge advocate, or approved for such designation by The Judge Advocate General, Commandant (CG-094), e.g., serving in a Coast Guard Reserve legal billet if not on active duty.
- C. Procedures. Commissioned officers desiring designation as a judge advocate must submit a memo request via their chain of command to the Office of Legal Policy & Program Development, Commandant (CG-LPD), for determination by The Judge Advocate General, Commandant (CG-094). When a designation is made, Commandant (CG-LPD) will notify Commander (CG PSC-OPM) for appropriate documentation in the records. The officer's memo request should include the following information:
1. Name of the law school attended and graduation date.
 2. Name of the bar in which admitted to practice law and admission date(s).
 3. The officer billet code number and specific legal duty to which assigned, or other basis for requesting designation.
- Note:* Evidence of law school graduation and a license to practice law must be enclosed with the memo.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 7 RECRUIT COMPANY COMMANDER**A. Eligibility.**

1. Permanent Entitlement. Enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve are eligible to permanently wear the Company Commander Insignia provided that they:
 - a. Have either successfully completed a Company Commander assignment, regardless of duration, prior to August 1996, or met all requirements of a Company Commander assignment after August 1996 and completed 12 consecutive months of a Company Commander assignment; and
 - b. Have appropriate entries made in Direct Access.

Note: Detached Reservists who meet the requirement in Paragraph 12.A.1.a. above may waive the consecutive duty requirement as necessary to achieve 12 months of assignment as a Company Commander.

2. Temporary Entitlement. Personnel serving as a Company Commander who have met all requirements of a Company Commander assignment established after August 1996, but have not yet completed 12 consecutive months, are eligible to temporarily wear the Company Commander Insignia.

B. Award Authority. The authority to wear the Company Commander Insignia will be granted as follows:

1. Enlisted personnel on active duty and Reservists serving as a Company Commander, or who have previously served as a Company Commander and can provide supporting documentation, may submit requests to the command having custody of their Personnel Data Record to have the appropriate entries made.
2. Personnel who qualify may wear the insignia without regard to the method of obtaining the qualification or their present rate or grade.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 8 CUTTER OPERATIONS, DIVING, MARINE SAFETY, AND TACTICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

- A. Cutterman Insignia. The service and qualification requirements for the officer and enlisted Cutterman Insignia are found in Reference (c), Cutter Training and Qualification Manual, COMDTINST M3502.4 (series).
- B. Diver Insignia. The service and qualification requirements, and other related policy, for the Diver Insignia recognizing the various qualification and levels of professional development within the Diver community are found in Reference (k), Diving Program Manual, COMDTINST M3150.1 (series).
- C. **Marine Safety Insignia. The service and qualification requirements for the Marine Safety Insignia and other related policy can be found in, Qualifications Required to Earn Marine Safety Insignia, COMDTINST 1200.2. Questions may be addressed to the Office of Shore Forces (CG-741).**
- D. Tactical Law Enforcement Insignia. The service and qualification requirements for award of the Tactical Law Enforcement Insignia to members assigned within the Coast Guard's Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) community are found in Reference (i), Deployable Specialized Forces Tactical Operations Manual, COMDTINST M16600.7 (series).
- E. Port Security Unit Insignia. The service and qualification requirements for award of the Port Security Unit Insignia to members assigned within the Port Security Unit community are found in Reference (j), Port Security Unit Organizational Manual, COMDTINST M5400.17 (series).

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK