



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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SECNAVINST 1300.12D
ASN(M&RA)/N13
25 August 2011

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1300.12D

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: ASSIGNMENT OF WOMEN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Ref: (a) Public Law 103-160
(b) SECDEF ltr of 4 Feb 94 (NOTAL)
(c) SECDEF ltr of 22 Jul 99 (NOTAL)
(d) SECDEF ltr of 2 May 2005 (NOTAL)
(e) SECDEF ltr of 19 Feb 2010 (NOTAL)
(f) SECDEF memo of 13 Jan 94 (NOTAL)
(g) OPNAVINST 1300.17B
(h) MCO P1300.8R

1. Purpose. To prescribe the guidelines under which women, both officer and enlisted, in the Navy and Marine Corps may be assigned to duty in ships, aircraft, and units of the Navy and Marine Corps. This instruction is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 1300.12C.

3. Scope. When the United States Coast Guard is assigned as a Service within the Department of the Navy (DON), the policies established in this instruction will apply to women of the Coast Guard.

4. Background. Reference (a), section 541, repealed section 6015 of title 10, United States Code, the "combat exclusion law" which authorizes the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) to change military personnel policy to assign women to any combat unit, classes of combat vessels and combat platforms. Reference (a), section 542, directed SECDEF to provide 30-day notification to Congress prior to implementing any changes specifically which open units, classes of vessels, or types of platforms that were previously closed to women, and 90-day notification prior to any changes to the ground combat exclusion policy. Prior to the repeal, women could be assigned to all combat logistic force, support, auxiliary, and special category ships, as well as non-

combatant units. Reference (b) notified Congress that the following were open to the assignment of women: all afloat staffs, all combat air squadrons, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, amphibious warfare ships, mine countermeasure commands and control ships, and all units of the Naval Construction Force. Reference (c) notified Congress that mine countermeasure and mine coastal hunter class ships were open to the assignment of women. Reference (d) notified Congress that coastal patrol craft ships were open to the assignment of women officers. Reference (e) notified Congress of the Navy's policy change permitting women to serve aboard submarines. Reference (f) issued the direct ground combat exclusion policy, and directed the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) to designate which positions, units, and platforms meet direct ground combat criteria. This policy also authorized SECNAV to recommend restriction of the assignment of women where: the costs of appropriate berthing and privacy arrangements are prohibitive; units and positions are doctrinally required to physically collocate and remain with direct ground combat units; units engaged in long-range reconnaissance operations and special operations forces missions; and or job-related physical requirements would necessarily exclude the vast majority of women service members. Reference (f) also states that Services will use this guidance to expand opportunities for women. No units or positions previously open to women will be closed under these instructions.

5. Definitions

a. Direct Ground Combat Rule. Service members are eligible to be assigned to all positions for which they are qualified, except that women shall be excluded from assignment to units below the brigade level whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground, as defined below.

b. Direct Ground Combat. Direct ground combat is engaging an enemy on the ground with individual or crew served weapons, while being exposed to hostile fire and to a high probability of direct physical contact with the hostile force's personnel. Direct ground combat takes place well forward on the battlefield while locating and closing with the enemy to defeat them by fire, maneuver, or shock effect.

c. Temporary Duty (TEM DU). TEM DU orders are orders which involve detachment from one station and assignment to another station or stations for TEM DU pending further assignment to a new permanent duty station or for return to the old permanent duty station. Members on TEM DU are not attached to any permanent duty station.

d. Temporary Additional Duty (TEM ADD). TEM ADD orders are orders which temporarily assign members to duty in addition to their present duties, and which direct them upon completion of this TEM ADD to resume regular duties.

6. Policy. It is DON policy that women, officers, and enlisted will be assigned to billets commensurate with their capabilities to the maximum extent practicable. The policy delineates when women may serve on board Navy ships, aircraft, and with Marine Corps units, but does not mandate assignment of women to any particular ship, aircraft, or Marine Corps unit. Accordingly, women:

a. May be assigned to all afloat staffs, all combat air squadrons, and all surface ships, and ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines. Some platforms remain closed to women due to inadequate berthing and privacy arrangements. Reference (g) contains a complete list of assignments currently restricted to women;

b. May be assigned TEM DU or TEM ADD to all squadrons and ships, and all units authorized for permanent assignment of women, without restriction;

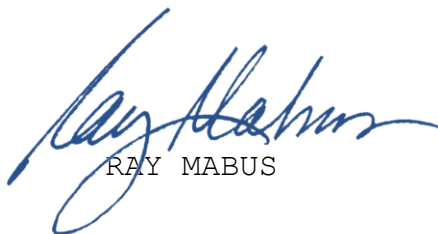
c. May be assigned TEM DU or TEM ADD to units closed to the assignment of women due to direct ground combat exclusion that are not expected to conduct a combat mission during the period of TEM DU. If women are so assigned to a unit that is closed and the unit is subsequently assigned a combat mission, every reasonable effort will be made to remove the women prior to execution of such mission;

d. May embark in any unit for official purposes not requiring TEM DU or TEM ADD orders, such as for the performance of inspections, support functions, or visits;

e. May not be assigned to billets as members of: infantry regiments and below; artillery battalions and below; any armored units (tanks, amphibious assault vehicles, and light armored reconnaissance); Riverine assault craft units; units and positions which are doctrinally required to physically collocate and remain with direct combat units that are closed to women; or units engaged in long-range reconnaissance operations or special operations forces missions, when such billets are inherently likely to result in being exposed to hostile fire and to a high probability of direct physical contact with the hostile force's personnel. Women may be assigned in a combat service support role for deployed naval special warfare forces. References (g) and (h) contain a complete list of assignments currently restricted to women.

7. Records Management. Records created by this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of November 2007.

8. Action. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall develop and issue specific directives for assignment of women within the policy contained herein. Assignment policies for women of the Navy and Marine Corps shall be in the best interests of the naval service; accomplished per this instruction; and consistent with the principles of fairness and equal opportunity.



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