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Instruction Change Emphasizes Ombudsman Role in Readiness

Recent revisions to OPNAVINST 1750.1F stressed the important role the Family Ombudsman Program to the U.S. Navy and its families. It is now recognized as a pivotal partner in disaster and emergency preparedness.

The new instruction added the requirement for commands to include ombudsmen in regional and command disaster preparedness planning and exercises.

OPNAVINST 1750.1F requires commanding officers to ensure that command family members have access to the services of an ombudsman. This includes mandating Reserve commands to have an ombudsman program, and establishing responsibilities for losing and gaining commands in situations when family members remain in one community while the service member reports to another location for duty.

The revised instruction also requires commands to establish specific funding resources for ombudsman program support and provides a detailed listing of command support requirements for equipment use.

The new instruction strengthens the Navy's commitment to supporting these volunteers by ensuring they are provided with training, tools and support to do their job and to ensure the success of the program.

The instruction calls for the development and maintenance of a Web-based introductory and orientation course for new ombudsmen, a Web-based registry and locator, an ombudsman Web site, curriculum development and an annual conference.

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