



Sailor Gram

News you can use from Navy Total Force

Brilliant on the Basics

“Command Sponsor Program - The First 72 Hours”

The Command Sponsor Program responsibilities begin upon receipt of PCS orders and continue until the Sailor has become an integral part of the new command and is fully cognizant of all policies, programs, services, and responsibilities available through the command. [OPNAVINST 1740.3C](#) provides guidance and a flowchart for the Command Sponsor Program. Click on the link to get the instruction.

Proactive interaction by a sponsor and Ombudsman can solve many issues and concerns before the Sailor and family arrive on board. Paving the way for a smooth transition and making each Navy family feel like a genuine part of their new command can ensure a family commitment of support to enable success for all. As our Navy policies and programs change, we must reevaluate whether or not our command sponsorship process is conducive to the PCS transition.

Sailors should expect nothing less than an exceptional check-in process. Whether it is arriving at an airport in a foreign country and being met by a smiling face from the command, our Sailors deserve a welcoming experience during their PCS transition. Caring leadership and a structured internal program can make the new experience a positive one for the Sailor and family.

First impressions are everlasting. The First 72 hours of checking into a command are without question the most influential. During this introduction period, personnel expect to feel as though their arrival is important to the command. While the mission of each command may be vastly different, the importance of gaining personnel positively is equally significant. The initial actions of leadership to ensure that every Sailor has their basic needs met upon arrival to a new duty station can impact a family's decision on whether or not they desire to continue to serve.

In accordance with OPNAV 1740.3C it is the responsibility of each command to designate a Command Sponsor Coordinator (CSC). The CSC is responsible to designate responsible personnel as a sponsor for a new arrival. Once designated, these individuals ensure that a welcome aboard package is sent out and that communications are established with the new Sailor. A list of responsibilities of each member within the command is provided in OPNAV 1740.3C and can be utilized as a great checklist in evaluating your Sponsor program.

Challenge: Use the month of March to review OPNAVINST 1740.3C and review your Sponsor Program. Take a critical look to ensure you have enabled a successful start for your Sailors and families. Be willing to hear their critical assessment of the program and never forget that this is a program to support them as they prepare to support the command and mission. First Impressions Are Everlasting! What impressions do your new Sailors have of their new command?

"A positive proactive sponsor sets the tone for the entire tour. It is important that we continue to energize this program - it will reward all of us with positive command climate and revitalized Sailors." - NCCM Neely

- Review the video “The First 72 Hours”.
- Be willing to take the critical feedback from your newly arriving Sailors that are participating in your sponsor program. What are their needs?