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5.) NAVADMIN bi-weekly roll-up:

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- Cancellation of the Guaranteed Assignment Retention Detailing (Guard 2000) Program [\[LINK\]](#)
- September 2016 (Cycle 232) Navy-Wide Petty Officer (E4-E6) Advancement Examinations for USN, Full Time Support, and Canvasser Recruiter Sailors [\[LINK\]](#)
- Navy Tattoo and NWU Type II and III Ball Cap Policy Change [\[LINK\]](#)

To sign up for the @USNPeople Weekly Wire, email usnpeople@gmail.com,
or find it online at www.navy.mil/cnp

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The days are numbered for the women's bucket cover, as women at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill. were fitted for "Dixie cups" at uniform issue on Monday.

Women in the fleet have until Oct. 31 to switch out their covers, as outlined in NAVADMIN 236/15.

"It's really awesome how something as simple as our cover is so symbolic in regards to equality and the uniformity in the military," Seaman Recruit Madeleine Bohnert said in the Navy release.

Similarly, female officers and senior enlisted are making the switch to new uniforms based on traditional men's styles, with combination covers and mandarin-collar dress whites.

"We're already part of a team and this just promotes it in a better way," recruit division commander Engineman 2nd Class Shanice Floyd said in the release. "Junior enlisted males and females already wear the same dress white uniform so this way when we get into the same dress blues uniform we'll look more as a unit."

Women at boot camp will begin receiving restyled blue crackerjacks in October, followed by the white version in October 2017.

Senior enlisted women have until January 2020 make the switch with their dress whites, while junior enlisted women have until that date to get blue crackerjacks, followed by the white version no later than October 2021.

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PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The September 2016 Navywide enlisted examinations (Cycle 232) testing dates for active duty, full time support and canvasser recruiter Sailors who are advancement eligible to the paygrades of E4-E6 have been announced in Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 083/16, released April 4.

Each Navy examination consists of 25 professional military knowledge and 150 job-specific rating technical questions. The Navywide examination dates are Sept. 1 (E6), Sept. 8 (E5) and Sept. 15 (E4).

Examination results will be released to command triads in November, before being posted on the Navy Enlisted Advancement System (NEAS) website.

"Bibliographies for the September exams have been posted and are now available for download on the Navy Knowledge Online and Navy COOL websites," said Master Chief Electronics Technician (Nuclear Power) (SS) James Berhalter, command master chief of the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center.

To download the bibliographies and an exam-specific topic list for the upcoming cycle, go to the Navy Advancement Center's web portal on NKO at <https://www.nko.navy.mil/group/navy-advancement-center/bibliographies?inheritRedirect=true>. BIBs are also available on the Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) website: <http://www.cool.navy.mil/usn> under the credentials tab.

"A good exam preparation plan is important because of the way the Navy grades exams," said Berhalter. "A Sailor's score is based off how many questions were answered correctly compared to everyone else taking the same exam. With that in mind, I would recommend Sailors use the official Navy bibliography as their sole resource for exam preparation."

During Advancement Examination Readiness Reviews held at NETPDTC, visiting E7-9 fleet subject-matter experts in each enlisted rating ensure all examination questions can be linked to references and publications. As rating SMEs select questions for the examination, an examination bibliography is developed for that specific cycle's exam, based on the source references for the questions on the exam. NAC updates bibliography information as fleet instructions and manuals change, and it is recommended that candidates check their bibliography a few times prior to the exam administration date.

Specific information on exam eligibility is detailed in NAVADMIN 083/16 and on the NEAS website. The NEAS website also enables education services officers to verify and correct the list of eligible candidates for their command, delete and forward examinations when necessary, and confirm examination ordering information. The NEAS web address is <https://prod.neas.netc.navy.mil/>.

For more information about the Navy Advancement Center and NEAS, visit NAC's Facebook site.

Additional information on the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center can be found via: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/netpdtc/Default.htm>.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/NETPDTC/.

3.) Easier For Military Spouses to Be Co-Located Under New Navy Rules / 5 APRIL 16

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Dual military couples are about to get a better shot at being stationed together.

That's part of the Navy's new guidelines that heighten the priority to co-locate couples where both spouses serve in the military. The Navy also hopes the move will spur the other services to provide greater flexibility to couples that serve in different military branches.

"This impacts nearly 20,000 sailors that we know of at the moment," said Rear Adm. Ken Whitesell, head of distribution at the Navy Personnel Command. "There's 9,000 Navy couples and about 2,000 sailors who have identified as having a spouse in another service in the system, but the number could grow."

What you need to know:

1. New rules. Navy Personnel Command revised dual military couple detailing rules after Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus called for better flexibility for these couples in a sweeping personnel speech last May.

The new policy signed March 12 is outlined in an updated version of Military Personnel Manual article 1300-1000.

2. Highest priority. Being co-located with your spouse is now the default for dual military couples.

“It’s a change and evolution of our IT system, so we have better visibility with automatic triggers so when they’re negotiating orders that it’s mandatory that detailers talk between each other and find orders for each member in areas they can co-locate in,” Whitesell said.

As long as you're in the system as a dual Navy or military couples, your detailers will pull out all the stops to get you assigned together — unless you tell them in writing not to.

The IT system has a way to flag sailors who identify as dual military. And if for some reason your and your spouse’s detailers can't get a co-location done, it’s then automatically pushed up to the the head of detailing to review why not.

3. Raise your hand. Until now, co-location was something sailors had to apply for every time they negotiated orders.

Basically the system did not record their dual military status.

Now once you tell the Navy, the new system retains that information. Whitesell says it’s a good idea to log into your NSIPS — Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System account — and update your personal information. Under your spouse’s information is a box that asks if they are in the military. Once you check that box, that status should update throughout the Navy system.

For now, it’s a good idea to hit the system from multiple angles to ensure it’s all updated, Whitesell said. Sailors, he says should print out their information and send it to their detailer — then follow up with a phone call to make sure the flags are showing up in their record. Sailors can also log into the detailing system — CMS/ID — and update their information there too.

4. Reassignment. Whitesell stresses that a Dual military couples must be in what he calls a “legally binding relationship” with the papers to prove it, Whitesell said. The rules are the same for same-sex couples.

“This doesn’t apply to couples who are living together, but not married,” he added. “Just to be crystal clear.”

According to the policy, the Navy doesn’t have a maximum allowed distance for spouses' duty stations, but it says that “90 driving miles should be used as a guide when considering collocation requests.”

For couples not presently co-located, they can now request reassignment provided the sailor requesting co-location has completed at least one year at their current command, that a relief for them can be found and that they’re not also in under orders at training.

“Every effort will be made to achieve collocation within one year of the request; however, requirements regarding time on station, [proscribed sea tours], obligated service, retainability, recently acquired skills, and training will all be considerations of the request,” the policy states.

5. Inter-service couples. This is the wild card in the system, but the Navy’s trying to fix it.

“Right now there is no formal agreement between the services on dual military couple assignments,” Whitesell said. “Currently, how we do it is the Navy service member submits their request for co-location and must provide a phone number or some kind of point of contact to their spouse's detailer in the other service.”

From there, he said, it’s up to the detailer to strike an agreement with their counterpart in the other service — but nothing is guaranteed.

Hopefully, he said, that will change, soon.

“We have submitted a recommendation to DoD for a policy change that would make it mandatory for the detailers to work across the services and adhere to a dual-military co-location policy similar to what the Navy has put in place for dual Navy couples,” Whitesell said.

Whitesell said he didn’t have a timeline as to when a DoD policy might happen said it was a priority to get it done.

4.) Carter Unveils Goldwater Nichols Reform / 5 APRIL 16 [\[LINK\]](#)

DEFENSE NEWS, Aaron Mehta and Joe Gould

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Ash Carter wants to clarify the role of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, see service chiefs have a greater hand in acquisition, and winnow the number of four-star billets, all part of a major reform effort to the rules that govern the Pentagon.

Carter’s proposals come under the aegis of reforming the 1986 Goldwater Nichols Act, which gave the Pentagon its modern structure. While the system worked well for a time, both members of Congress and Pentagon leaders have expressed a belief that the system needs to be reworked for the modern battlefield.

Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Tuesday, Carter made the case for why and how the Goldwater-Nichols legislation should be changed.

“This year, as Goldwater-Nichols turns 30, we can see that the world has changed,” Carter said in his prepared remarks. “Instead of the Cold War and one clear threat, we face a security environment that’s dramatically different from the last quarter-century. It’s time that we consider practical updates to this critical organizational framework, while still preserving its spirit and intent.”

The first reform is clarifying the role of the Chairman, currently Marine Gen. Joe Dunford, while still keeping him outside the chain of command. Essentially, it codifies the Chairman's role as the top military adviser.

“We need someone in uniform who can look across the services and combatant commands and make objective recommendations to the department’s civilian leadership about where to allocate forces throughout the world and where to apportion risk to achieve maximum benefit to our nation,” Carter said. “And the person best postured to do that is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.”

Carter acknowledged the Chairman is supposed to be the military advisor for the President and secretary, but said in today's world, the role goes beyond that narrow definition.

"It doesn't say [the Chairman is] also the one who supposed to be, everyday and periodically as we move forces around, giving me that advice on where things ought to be and how they ought to be used," Carter said after his speech. "That is self-evidently required in today's world and it wasn't part of the original conception. As a practical matter everyone knows I look to Gen. Dunford to do that, but I think it's worth writing it down."

The second change focuses on how the Pentagon buys equipment. Congress delivered acquisition reform directives to the Pentagon last year, which Carter said the building would follow, with an emphasis on increasing the acquisition powers held by the individual service chiefs.

This will include evaluating – “and where appropriate reducing” – members of the Defense Acquisition Board, which currently is comprised of 35 principals and advisers.

“Reducing these layers will both free up staff time and focus decision-making energy on overcoming real obstacles to program success rather than bureaucratic hurdles,” Carter said.

Sometimes reform can come from not making big changes, something Carter indicated is the right path with the geographic combatant commands, his third area of focus. Merging several COCOMS, as has been publicly debated around Washington, doesn’t make sense in a world with unique conflicts in many different regions.

“Instead of combining these commands to the detriment of our friends, our allies, and in fact our own command and control capabilities, we intend to be more efficient by integrating functions like logistics, intelligence, and plans across the Joint Staff, the combatant commands, and subordinate commands, eliminating redundancies wherever we find them without losing capability,” he said.

Carter also indicated that the number of four-stars may be winnowed in the future, noting he will “look to simplify and improve command and control where the number of four-star positions have made headquarters either top-heavy, or less efficient than they could be.”

Perhaps most interesting, Carter seemed to leave the door open for a change in status for US Cyber Command, saying “we should consider changes to cyber’s role in DoD’s Unified Command Plan.” That could be a hint that he would consider making Cyber Command a full combatant command.

"We have a cyber command today, and i have given cyber command in the counter-ISIL [the common name for the Islamic State group] fight, really, its first wartime assignment. and we're seeing how that works out," Carter said during a question and answer session after his speech. "

“Where we see potential to be more efficient and effective, billets currently filled by four-star generals and admirals will be filled by three-stars in the future,” Carter added.

Finally, Carter proposes to change the requirement that officers serve in joint roles as they progress in their career, calling the current requirements “more narrow and rigid than they need to be.”

Instead, Carter envisions a situation where officers can receive joint duty credit for operational functions, “such as intelligence, fires, transportation and maneuver, protection, and sustainment, including joint acquisition.”

The secretary also wants to shorten the joint duty requirement time, going from three years to two.

Carter ended his speech with a warning that any change to Goldwater Nichols must make sure to avoid harming the ability of the department to execute its national security mission.

Congressional Reaction

The announcement came as the Senate and House armed services committees are preparing to offer their own version of Goldwater-Nichols reform as part of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. What form it will take has yet to be revealed by SASC Chair John McCain, R-Ariz., the point person for the bill.

“We’re still refining a lot of it, it is a very big reform package,” McCain said.

In his prepared remarks, Carter said he had met with McCain, the SASC's ranking democrat, Sen. Jack Reed, of Rhode Island, HASC Chair Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, on Tuesday morning. McCain said he had several meetings with Carter and that they had gone well.

McCain told reporters after Carter's remarks that before he is ready to announce his proposals, he plans to consult with Reed, brief the committee and debate the package of reforms in the markup of the 2017 NDAA, which is due to take place in closed session in five weeks.

There will be overlap between the SASC and Pentagon proposals, McCain said, but he said his would go "much further," and Pentagon officials may not like all of it.

"There are a lot of things they won't like, but there are a lot of things we both like," he said.

There is some consensus around elevating US Cyber Command from a sub-combatant command to a full combatant command, McCain said, and he expressed openness to giving the Joint Chiefs chairman "more involvement," in line with Carter's remarks.

"There is a careful line between the German general staff concept and what it was before, and we're trying to thread that needle," McCain said.

Reed and other lawmakers said in advance of the announcement that there were a number of open questions as they consider their own ambitious changes.

"Structural changes, and some of the issues everyone's talking about, the status of the unified combatant commands, the role of the chairman [of the Joint Chiefs], does that evolve, raising Cyber Command to a full combatant command and the consequences," Reed said. "Those are going to be the major issues."

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