1. **Purpose.** This article defines “command” and establishes criteria and eligibility for all types and grades of commands.

2. **Commanding Officer (CO)** Per reference (a), “a commanding officer refers to an officer, either of the line or of a staff corps, detailed to command by competent authority that has authority over all officers or other persons attached to the command, whatever their rank, and whether they are of the line or of a staff corps.”

3. **Command at Sea.** Per reference (a), “command at sea” refers to those afloat, deploying, and or operational units defined as sea-going commands under the operating forces of the Navy and Marine Corps found in reference (b). Only administratively screened and selected unrestricted line (URL) officers are eligible for command at sea.
4. **Command Ashore.** Per reference (a), “command ashore” refers to those activities whose defined missions comprise the Shore Establishment of the Department of the Navy, and those shore activities under the operating forces of the U.S. Navy found in reference (b). All administratively screened and selected line and staff corps officers are eligible for command ashore, as appropriate to that officer’s line community or staff corps.

5. **Screened for Command.** Per reference (c), every CO, regardless of line community or staff corps, and regardless of the type or grade of command, must be screened. MILPERSMAN 1301-802 and 1301-804 address command screening and command selection.

6. **Command Opportunity**

   a. This is defined as the opportunity for an officer to have at least one screened command in grade. Command opportunity is obtained by dividing the community’s number of designated and apportioned commands in grade available per year (annual fills) by the number of community officers selected for promotion in a given fiscal year (total year group).

   b. Command opportunity is used to determine a community’s demand signal for officers. It demonstrates the percentage of officers at a particular grade going to command.

7. **Selection Opportunity**

   a. This is defined as the opportunity for an officer to select for command across multiple looks. Selection opportunity is obtained by dividing the community’s number of designated and apportioned commands in grade available per year (annual fills) by the community’s administratively established population of eligible officers (community screen group).

   b. Selection opportunity is used to determine a community’s selectivity for command. It demonstrates the percentage of officers being selected for command.

8. **Grades of Commands**

   a. **Major Command – Sequential** (formally “sequential command):” A second screened command to which a captain (CAPT)
is assigned, as designated by the Chief of Naval Operations in reference (d), for which a previous major command is a prerequisite;

b. Major Command: A screened command to which a CAPT is assigned, as designated by the Chief of Naval Operations in reference (d) for which commander (CDR) command is a prerequisite for URL officers, and for which CDR milestone or CDR command is a prerequisite for restricted line or staff corps officers;

c. CAPT Command: A screened command to which a CAPT is assigned, as designated in reference (e), for which a previous command is not a prerequisite;

d. CDR Command – Sequential: Formerly “second in-grade (or bonus) command.” A second screened command to which a CDR is assigned, as designated in reference (f), for which a previous CDR command is a prerequisite;

e. CDR Command: A screened command to which a CDR is assigned, as designated in reference (f);

f. Early Command: A screened command to which a lieutenant commander (or below) is assigned, as designated in reference (g).

9. Classification of Command. Billets designated as command are those identified by the following Navy officer billet classification codes listed in reference (h):

a. Major Command – Sequential
   • CO Afloat (CAPT) – 9236
   • CDR Operating Forces Selected (SEL) – 9006
   • Area Commander – 9009
   • CO Shore Activity (SEL) – 9422
   • Major Project Manager (SEL) – 2161

b. Major Command
   • CO Afloat (CAPT) – 9236
   • CDR Operating Forces (SEL) – 9006
   • Area Commander – 9009
   • CO Shore Activity (SEL) – 9422
   • Military Sealift Command (MSC) Commander – 9950
   • Major Project Manager (SEL) – 2161
• Naval Attaché * - 9635 See Note 1
• Naval Engineering Research Project Officer - 7959
• Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair - 7996

c. **CAPT Command**
• CO Afloat (CDR) - 9235
• CDR/CO Shore Activity - 9421
• Aviation Squadron CO - 8670
• CO Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) Company - 0055
• Convoy Commodore - 9018
• CDR Operating Forces - 9005
• Professor Naval Science - 3277
• Commander, Engineering Assessment - 9345
• Naval Engineering Research Project Officer - 7959
• Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair - 7996

d. **CDR Command - Sequential**
• CO Afloat (CDR) - 9235
• CO Special Warfare - 9290
• CDR/CO Shore Activity - 9421
• Aviation Squadron CO - 8670
• CO Construction Forces - 4305
• CO FMF Company - 0055
• CDR Operating Forces - 9005
• Commander, Engineering Assessment - 9345

e. **CDR Command**
• CO Afloat (CDR) - 9235
• CO Special Warfare - 9290
• CDR/CO Shore Activity - 9421
• Aviation Squadron CO - 8670
• CO Construction Forces - 4305
• CO MSC Office - 9470
• CO FMF Company - 0055
• CDR Operating Forces - 9005

f. **Early Command**
• CO Afloat (LCDR) - 9234
• CO Afloat (LT) - 9233
• CO Construction Forces - 4305
• CDR/CO Shore Activity - 9421
Note 1: Only major defense attaché billets specified in reference (c) are major commands.

10. **Command Submission.** The major command review board (MCRB) is convened annually, or as required by the Chief of Naval Personnel per references (c) and (d). The MCRB will be convened to address, validate, or approve all CO billets.

   a. The command review board is convened as part of the MCRB to specifically address those commands not designated as major commands, and those commands below the grade of CAPT;

   b. The Chief of Naval Personnel will update and publish reference (d) annually based on the results of the MCRB;

   c. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (N13) will update and publish references (e) through (g) annually based on the results of the command review board;

   d. OPNAV, Head, Officer Plans and Policy (N131) is the point of contact for all CO billet submissions and questions.

11. **Miscellaneous.** Other MILPERSMAN articles pertaining to command policies and procedures are:

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