1. **Policy.** The interrogation or search of servicemembers in connection with any offense shall be, whenever possible, conducted by or in the presence of a servicemember of the same sex. Searches should be conducted by a member of the same sex while members of the opposite sex remain outside the search area but in close proximity.

**NOTE:** This does not apply to special agents of Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) who are governed by internal regulations of that organization.

2. **Exceptions.** Exceptions to the policy may be

   a. under urgent circumstances wherein an imminent danger to life or property exists; or

   b. when the facts and circumstances of the investigation necessitate an immediate interrogation and a servicemember of the same sex is not available.