

YARD PATROL SQUADRON INSTRUCTION 5320A

From: Officer Representative, Yard Patrol Squadron

Subj: THE ELECTION OF YARD PATROL SQUADRON COMMODORE

Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNINST 1710.14P

1. Purpose. To standardize the process used by midshipman leadership to elect the Commodore of the Yard Patrol Squadron (YPRON) each semester.
2. Background. The YPRON Commodore billet is a highly visible position that works directly with the Department of Seamanship and Navigation. The job requires extensive knowledge in seamanship, navigation and shiphandling as well as the high esteem, rapport and professionalism required to manage a team of volunteers. The Commodore is a three-striper member of the Brigade Staff, and doubles as the president of the extracurricular activity. YPRON is permitted to choose the manner in which it elects its president per reference (a).
3. Eligibility. The incumbent Commodore and Chief of Staff will create a list of eligible midshipmen and reach out to all of those members to gauge interest in being considered. This will include all firsties (rising first-class in the Spring) maintaining a full-time status. Abroad midshipmen who were full-time during the semester prior will also be included in this list. The midshipmen who choose to be considered will become Commodore Candidates.

Candidates that are abroad or studying at another academy must be extended accommodations to allow for a fair process and the same opportunities as other candidates.

4. Commodore Interview Board. The Commodore Interview Board will consist of current full-time staff as well as any OIC-qualified midshipmen maintaining a full-time status. All other full-time members will be offered the opportunity to be present at this board, but will remain quiet in the background. They will have the opportunity to vote later. The process for interviews will go as follows:
 - a. Before each Commodore Candidate enters the room, a staff member will read their previously-prepared personal statement. The candidate will enter and answer one question from each member of the Interview Board.
 - b. Immediately following interviews, every full-time member in the room will have one vote. Depending on the number of candidates, several successive rounds of in-person voting will take place. Each time a round of voting occurs, the candidate(s) with the lowest number of votes will be removed from consideration. Voting will stop when one candidate receives at least two-thirds of the vote. This candidate will become Commodore.

c. If all but two candidates are eliminated, and neither receives two-thirds of the vote, the Commodore Interview Board will move to phase two. They will remove observers from the room and debate the merits of the top two candidates. This should include experience, OIC-qualification progress, character, other billets/duties, personal statement and vision, and representation on and off the Yard. The Interview Board will hold a majority vote among themselves for the next Commodore. If there is a tie, the incumbent Commodore will cast the deciding vote.

The new Commodore - as chosen by a two-thirds majority of full-time members or a simple majority by the Interview Board - will be announced within 24 hours to the team and to the Officer Representative. He/she will begin selecting staff members and executing the turnover process.

5. Limitations.

a. The questions posed at interviews must remain the same to all candidates except for that of the incumbent Commodore, who may ask a candidate-specific question of each. Candidates must not have prior knowledge of any of the questions before walking into the board.

b. No open deliberations or comments can occur during the Interview Board between any members unless the vote reaches phase two.

c. During no part of this process will the incumbent Commodore cast a vote, except when there is an absolute tie in phase two of the Interview Board. Commodore Candidates, even after removed from consideration, will not cast a vote during the process either.

d. No member can vote without being present for the interviews, or cast a vote on behalf of another member not present.

6. Review and Effective Date. This process will be in effect indefinitely and reviewed as necessary to ensure relevance. To guarantee a fair process that cannot be manipulated, the election process should not be changed often. Any changes to this process should be unanimously approved by all staff and OIC-qualified full-time members. The Officer Representative has the final authority on any changes.



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