Coast Guard Women Afloat

Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS)

September 9th, 2015

YNC Jennifer Bell, Enlisted Women Afloat Coordinator

Overview

- **Methodology behind how cutters are selected to accommodate service women (habitability modifications)**
- **What criteria are used to billet women to sea? Who provides oversight for this process?**
- **Who coordinates the berthing/racks available to women at sea, for each cutter in the Service's inventory?**
- **How do these decisions effect the career development of servicewomen (both officers and enlisted)**

Methodology on Selecting Cutters to Accommodate Servicewomen

- **Berthing space size**
- **Head accommodations**
  - Sharing heads and the ability to secure them
- **New cutters built to easily accommodate mixed gender crews**
- **Modifications to legacy cutters to allow for mixed gender capabilities.**

Criteria & Oversight Used to Billet Women to Sea

- **What criteria are used to billet women to sea?**
  - Required sea time for advancement
  - Rack availability
  - Desire for an afloat assignment
  - Rate & Rank

- **Who provides oversight for this process?**
  - Enlisted Assignment Officers
  - Enlisted Women Afloat Coordinator
  - Officer Assignment Officers

Who Coordinates Berthing

YNC Jennifer Bell, Enlisted Women Afloat Coordinator, currently coordinates 700 racks onboard 117 cutters.

- **Coordination of the racks requires**
  - Constant communication with:
    - 27 Enlisted Assignment Officers
    - Cutter Commands
    - Women seeking afloat opportunities

Career Development Impacts for Enlisted Servicewomen

- **Enlisted Servicewomen:**
  - Several ratings require sea time for advancement. If sea time is not obtained it impacts advancement ability for servicewomen.
    - Boatswains Mate (BM)
    - Damage Controlman (DC)
    - Electricians Mate (EM)
    - Electronics Technician (ET)
    - Food Service Specialist (FS)
    - Operations Specialist (OS)
    - Machinery Technician (MK)

Career Development Impacts for Officer Servicewomen

- **Female Officers are able to be assigned to the majority of the afloat positions available at all ranks, they have the same career development opportunities at each rank that male officers have.**
- **A few circumstances where female Officers are unable to be assigned**
  - Operations Officer on 110’ patrol boat cutters in Bahrain
  - Executive Officer on the 140’ icebreakers
    - *This is because the officers assigned to these positions share a stateroom with an enlisted member that is usually male.*

Point of Contact Information

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Questions?

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