

RFI Category and Number:

Naval Academy Tasker Group RFI #2

RFI Question:

The Committee requests a written response from each of the Military Service Academies on whether a review/assessment has been conducted to determine whether any wording, songs, statues, portraits, or other materials/artifacts contain language or depict explicit or implied gender bias? If so, what was the outcome of the review/assessment and what follow-on actions will your academy take to eliminate or mitigate any conscious or unconscious gender bias, if necessary? If not, do you have a plan/date to complete a review/assessment?

RFI Response:

USNA has not conducted a formal review, but has proactively addressed these issues as they arise.

In 2004, then-Superintendent of USNA, Vice Admiral Rodney P. Rempt, USN, revised "Navy Blue and Gold," the alma mater, 81 years after its original composition. The word "men" in the first and fifth lines was removed to reflect the inclusion of women in USNA's heritage:

Original, 1923

*Now **college men** from sea to sea
May sing of colors true;
But who has better right than we
To hoist a symbol hue?
For **Sailor men** in battle fair,
Since fighting days of old,
Have proved the Sailor's right to wear
The Navy Blue and Gold.*

Revised, 2004

*Now **colleges** from sea to sea
May sing of colors true;
But who has better right than we
To hoist a symbol hue?
For **Sailors brave** in battle fair,
Since fighting days of old,
Have proved the Sailor's right to wear
The Navy Blue and Gold.*

At the time, VADM Rempt remarked, "Without changing the meaning of the song, these words make our Alma Mater inclusive of all who cherish it" (Washington Post, May 20, 2004).

In 2016, USNA closely watched the development and ultimate repeal of NAVADMIN 218/16, which called for Sailors to be addressed by rank vice rating (NAVADMIN 283/16). While thousands of Sailors gave wide support for the flexibility of rating modernization, the removal of rating titles detracted from accomplishing Navy's major goals. Similarly, "Midshipman" has not changed because it is a rank defined by U.S. law.

To date, there have been no requests to have the law changed, nor any other item be changed or removed on the basis of gender bias.

POC or office responsible:

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